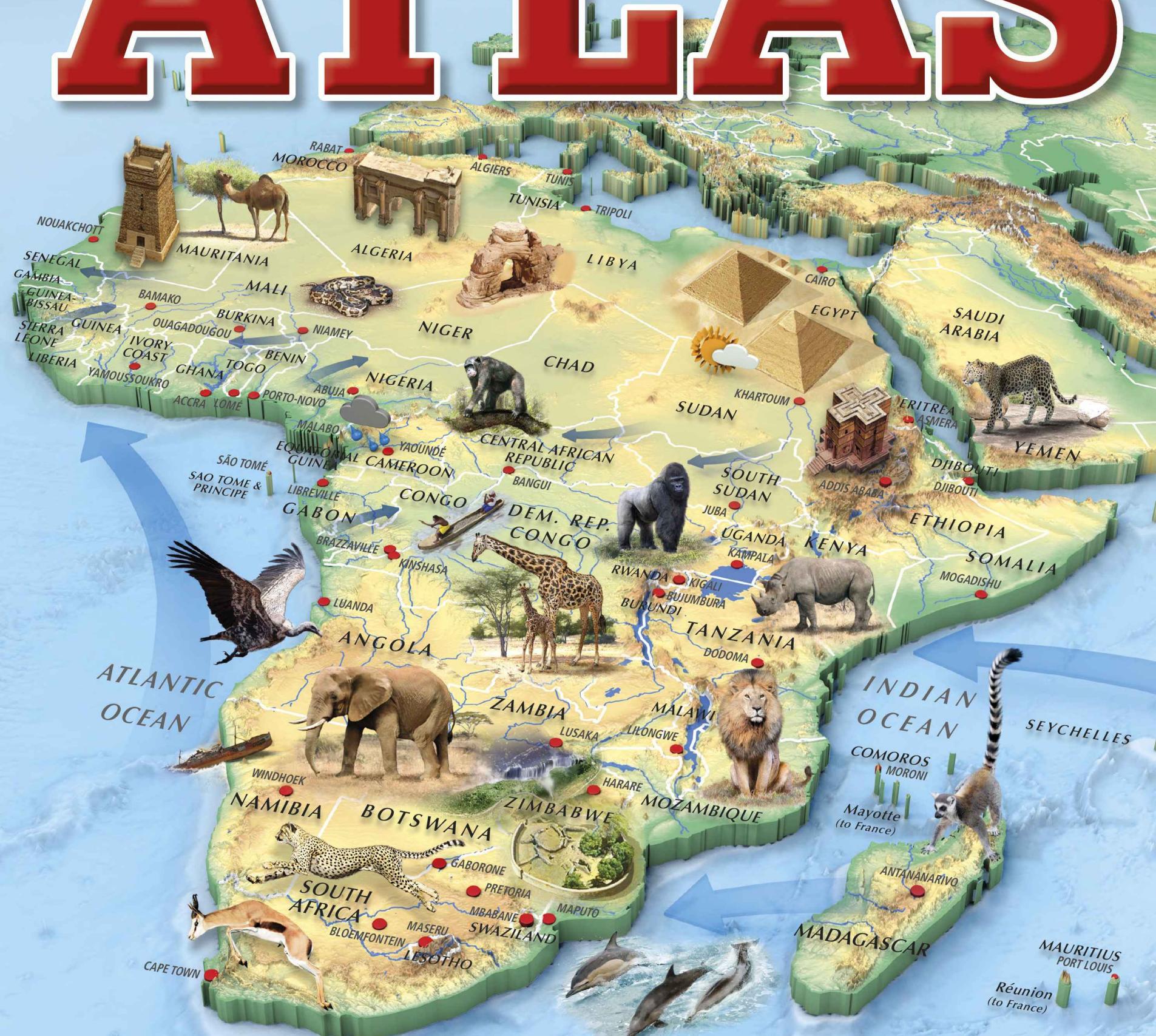




WHAT'S WHERE ON EARTH

ATLAS

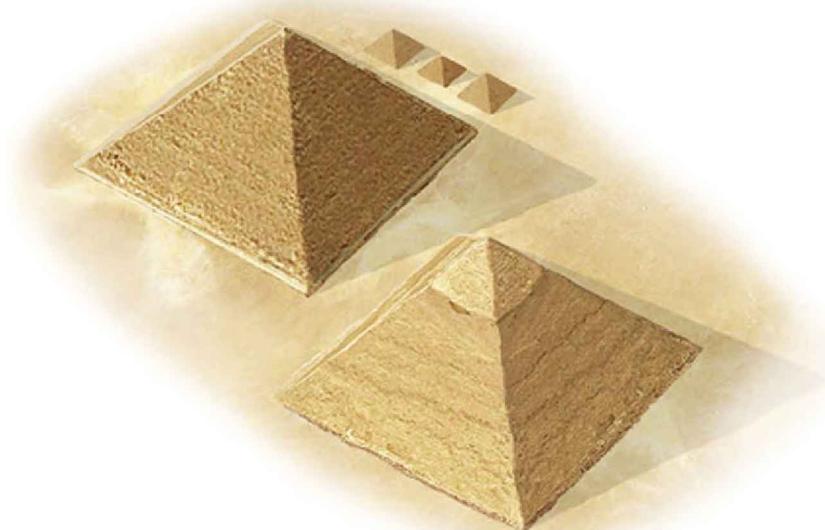


THE WORLD AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!



WHAT'S WHERE ON EARTH

ATLAS





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The South Pole





EARTH

Under attack

Rock and debris from space crashed into Earth's surface during its early formation, turning it molten and triggering volcanic activity.

Early Earth

Earth's formation started shortly after the birth of the Sun, 4.6 billion years ago. A star exploding in nearby space caused a vast amount of interstellar dust to collapse in on itself. This formed our Sun, and over time the rest of the surrounding debris clumped together into planets. As these grew larger, their steadily increasing gravity pulled them into spheres. One of these was our planet, Earth, a rocky ball with a molten metal core, and a thin shell, called a crust, at its surface.

The layered interior structure of Earth emerged early in its evolution. Heat from Earth's molten core forced the crust, which is made up of large slabs of rock called tectonic plates, to move constantly. As these plates shunted around and crashed into each other, they caused earthquakes and fiery volcanoes, formed mountain ranges and entire continents, and helped create the conditions in which life could emerge.



This illustration shows the sequence of Earth's formation – from small fragments of rock and dust sticking together, to a planet with its own atmosphere.

Atmosphere
The air was heavy with carbon dioxide. Atmospheric pressure was higher than it is today, which allowed water to stay liquid at a far higher temperature than its modern boiling point.

Clouds
Clouds of water droplets could be seen in the sky, much as today.

First oceans
Liquid water, in which the first life formed, would have become permanent oceans at some time between 4.4 and 4.2 billion years ago.

3.5 billion years ago

Early Earth was quite different from the world we know today. Before the ozone layer developed in the atmosphere, exposed land was unprotected from the Sun's burning radiation, and remained lifeless for billions of years. However, conditions for life may have existed in the deep oceans and the shallow seas.

Lava flows

As asteroid impacts triggered volcanic activity, lava could fill craters.

Isolated oceans

Cooling seas, cut off from the violence going on elsewhere on the planet, may have provided the conditions from which the first life forms would emerge.

Volcanic activity

Volcanoes threw out minerals that, at calmer locations, may have helped produce the ingredients needed to create life.

Late Heavy Bombardment

Starting around 4.1 billion years ago and lasting for 200 million years, a huge number of asteroids crashed into the Solar System's inner planets, including Earth. This period is known as the Late Heavy Bombardment.

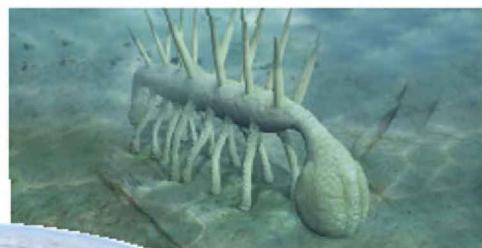


500 million years ago

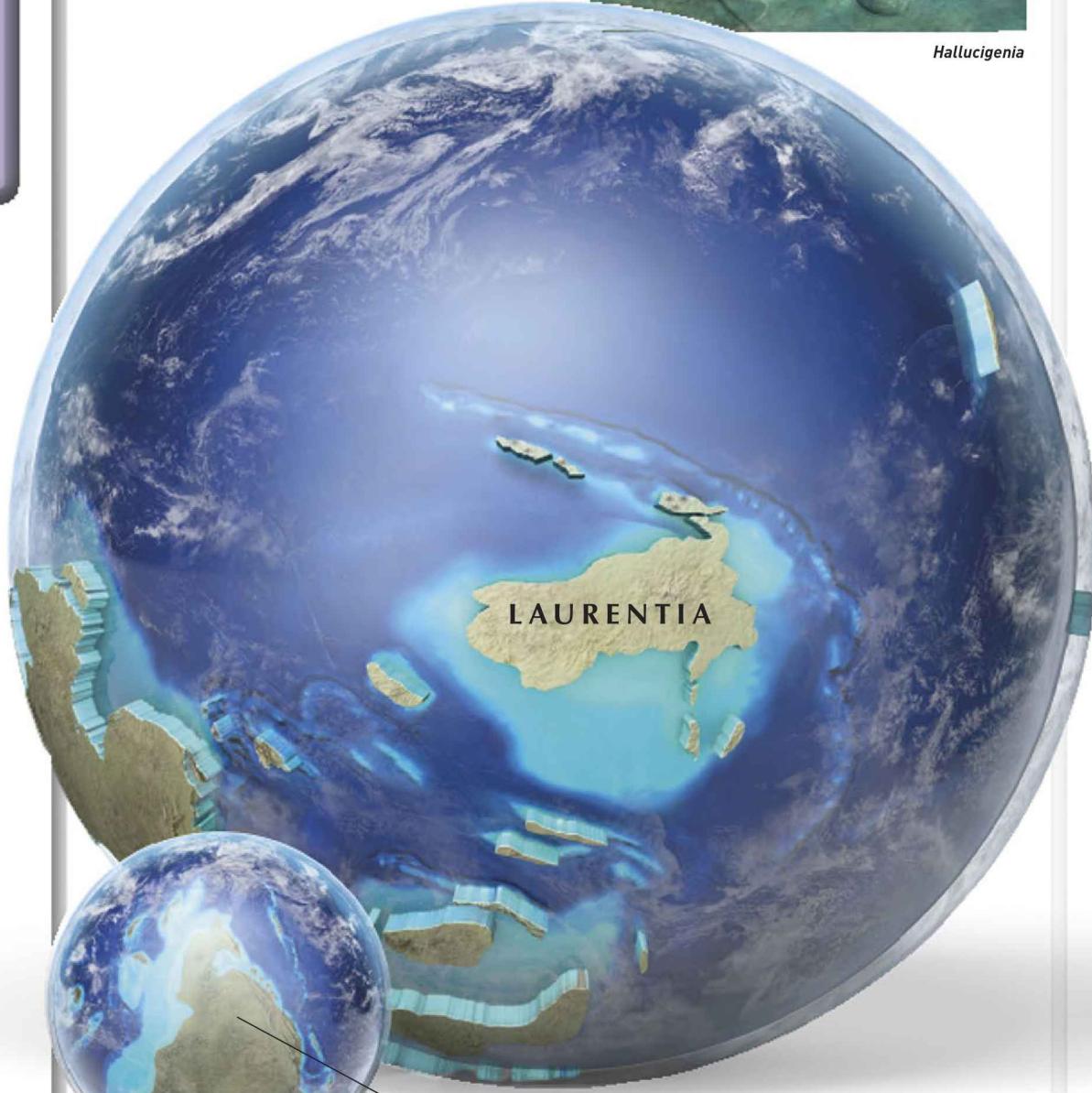
By this stage of Earth's history two major continents had formed. The largest, Gondwana, was mainly tropical. Laurentia (now North America) had also drifted from the polar regions to the tropics and sat on the Equator. Temperatures were mild across the globe, but cooling.

In the water

Many life forms developed in the warm, shallow seas, including marine invertebrates such as *Hallucigenia*, a worm with limbs.



Hallucigenia



The giant continent of Gondwana sat on the tropics

Reverse view

Lifeless land

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were 15 times higher than today, and no animals could survive on land.

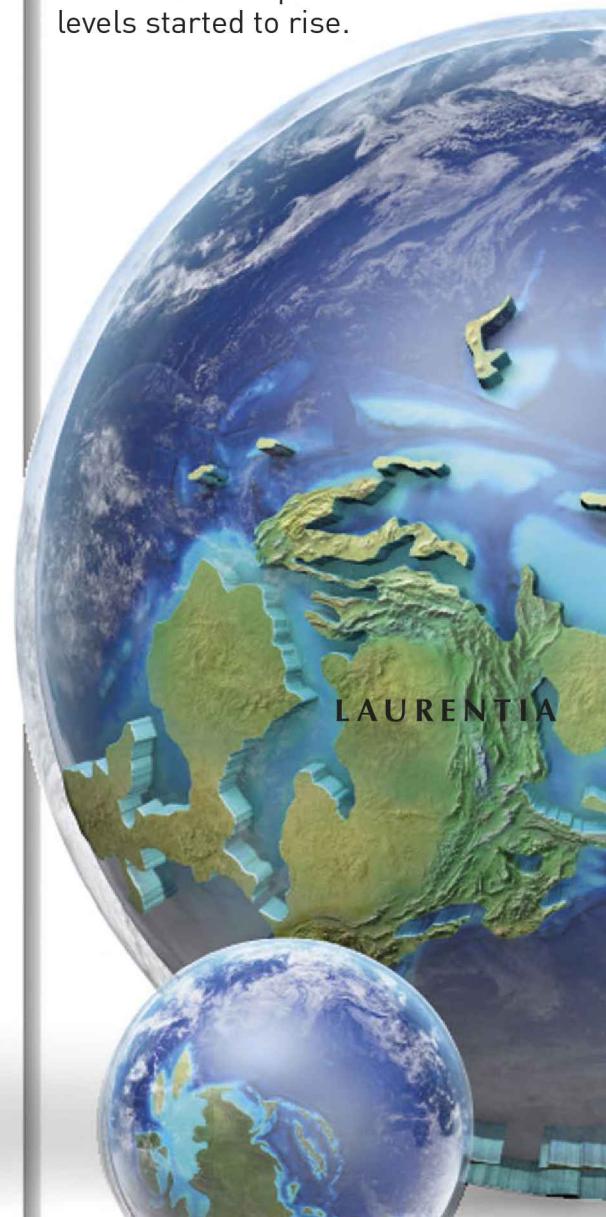


Early algae

There was no land vegetation, but many types of algae (plant-like organisms that live in the sea) had appeared and diversified.

420 million years ago

Continents continued to shift. Avalonia (now split across present-day southern Britain and Canada) moved north to collide with Laurentia. Siberia headed north and Gondwana south, taking most of present-day Australia and Antarctica into the southern hemisphere. Sea levels started to rise.



Reverse view

Animals

Millipedes, such as the one below, were the first known oxygen-breathing animals on land.



In the water

The first coral reefs and fish appeared. *Guizy oneiros* remains dating back to 419 million years ago have been found in Yunnan province, China.



Guizy oneiros



Plants

The tiny, but upright, *Cooksonia* was one of the first plants to colonize land. It was short, had branching stems, and lived in damp habitats.



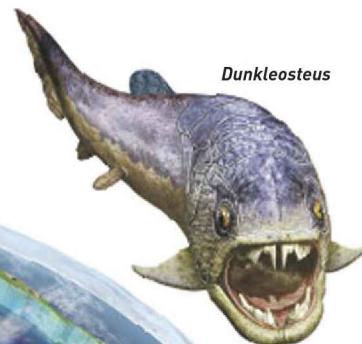
Cooksonia

380 million years ago

Laurentia and Baltica collided, closing up the Iapetus Ocean and forming the continent of Eurasia. The collision created the Appalachian-Caledonide Mountain Range, which extended from Scandinavia to the Appalachian Mountains in North America. Gondwana rotated clockwise, approaching Eurasia.

In the water

The "Age of Fish" saw a variety of lobe-finned fish and jawed predators. Placoderms (armoured fish) included the mighty *Dunkleosteus*.



Dunkleosteus



Reverse view

Fish with legs

The first tetrapods (four-legged animals) developed. The earliest were like fish with legs, such as *Ichthyostega*.



Archaeopteris

The landmasses turned green as woody, spore-bearing plants such as *Archaeopteris*, a treelike plant with ferny leaves, created major forests and swamps.

Plants

The landmasses turned green as woody, spore-bearing plants such as *Archaeopteris*, a treelike plant with ferny leaves, created major forests and swamps.

300 million years ago

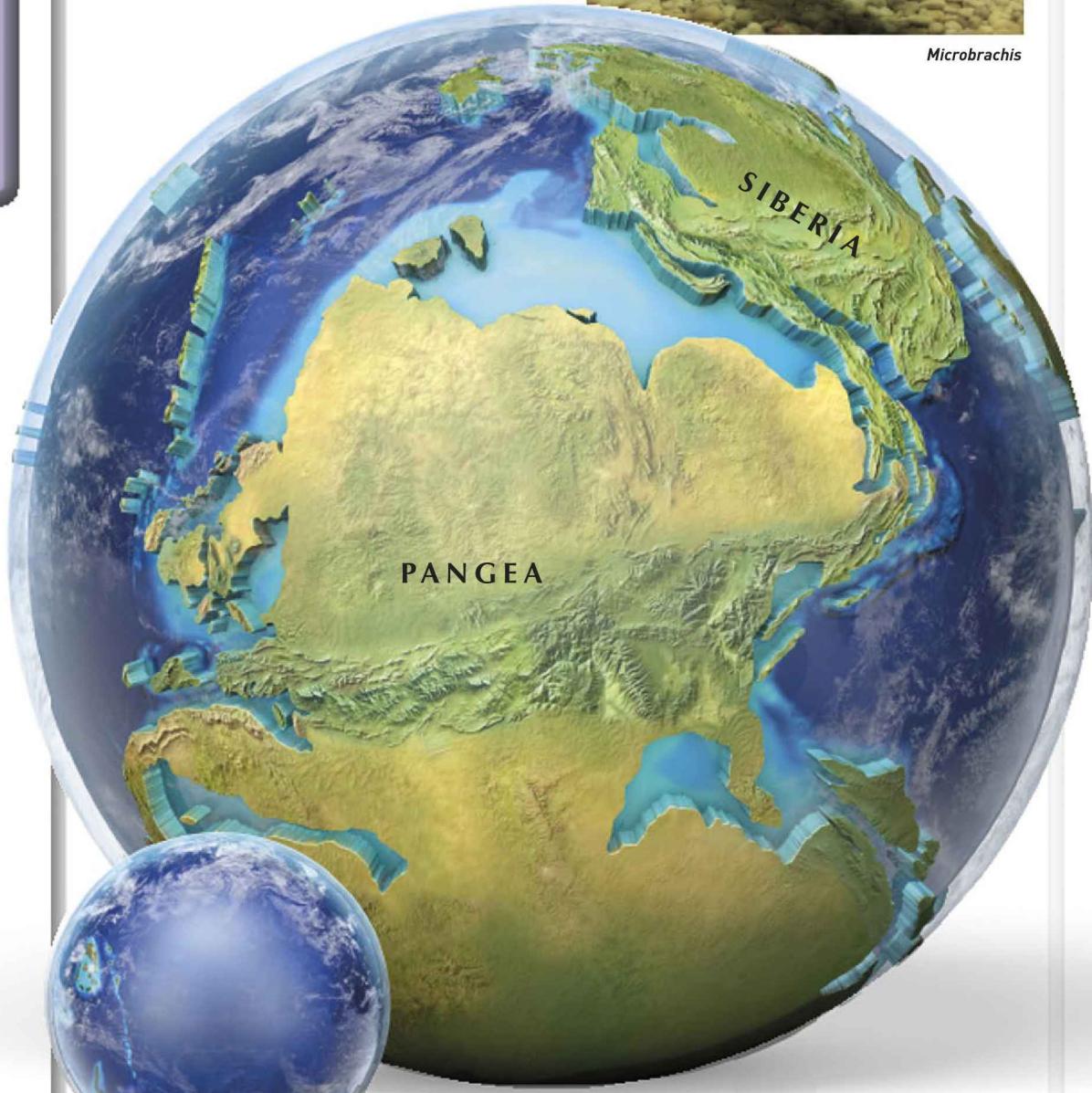
By 300 million years ago, Eurasia had merged with Gondwana to form the supercontinent Pangea, which extended from high in the northern hemisphere to the South Pole, where ice caps spread. Siberia collided with eastern Europe, creating the Ural Mountains.

In the water

Fish and aquatic tetrapods, such as *Microbrachis* ("tiny limbs"), shared the seas with corals, crinoids (sea lilies), and brachiopods (molluscs).



Microbrachis



Animals

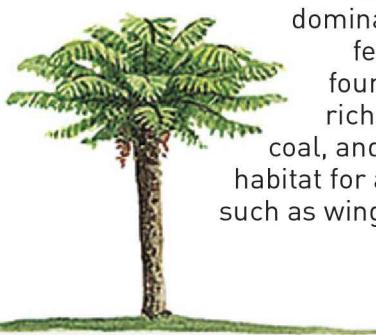
The shelled egg evolved, so tetrapods, such as *Ophiacodon*, could lay eggs on land without them drying out.



Ophiacodon

Plants

Lush swamps dominated by tree ferns laid the foundations for rich deposits of coal, and provided a habitat for arthropods, such as winged insects.



250 million years ago

All the continents were absorbed into the giant supercontinent Pangea. Global sea levels fell, while, in Siberia, massive volcanic eruptions poured out ash and gases, poisoning both the atmosphere and the oceans. Such events led to a global mass extinction.



Animals

About 70 per cent of land species became extinct, including *Dimetrodon*.

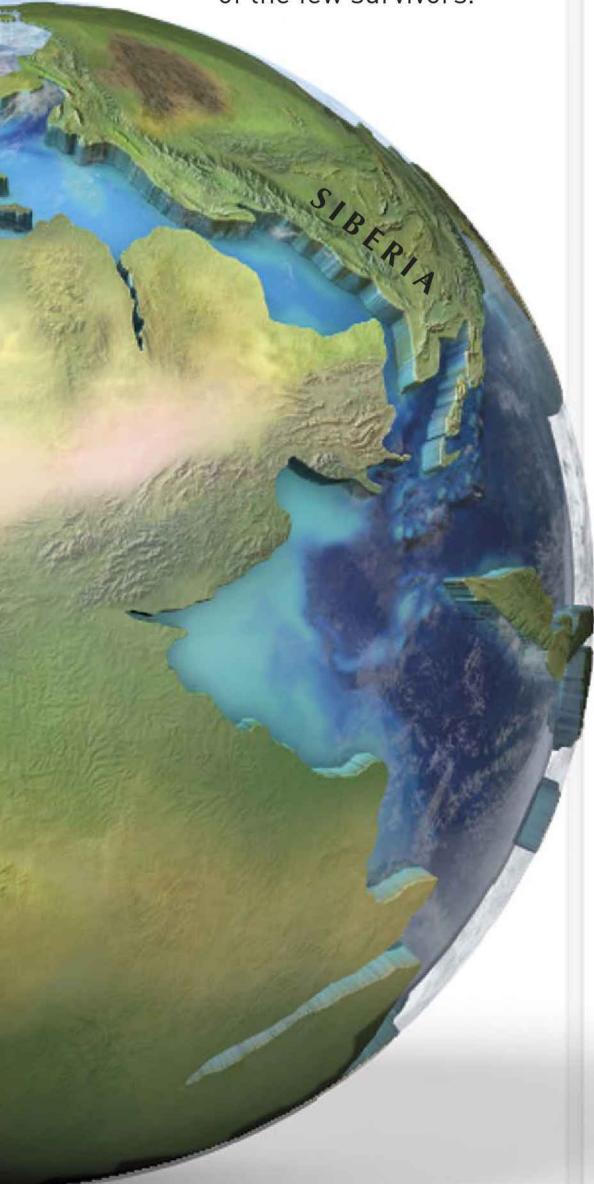


Dimetrodon



In the water

Falling sea levels exposed reefs. An estimated 95 per cent of marine species died out in the mass extinction – *Helicoprion* was one of the few survivors.



Plants

Half of all plant species died out. *Glossopteris*, widespread for 50 million years, declined, as did conifers, horsetails, and ferns.

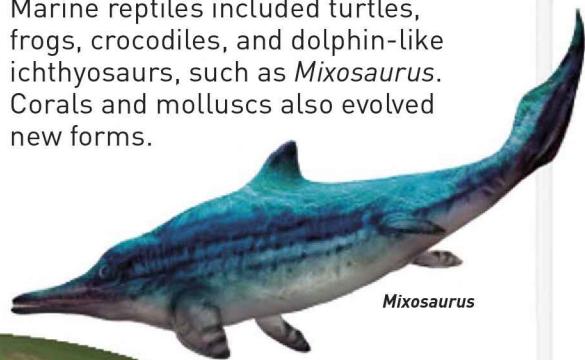
Glossopteris

220 million years ago

Pangea was at its largest – it extended from pole to pole – and sea levels had lowered. The supercontinent moved north, rotating anticlockwise. New life forms, including dinosaurs, started to evolve on the land.

In the water

Marine reptiles included turtles, frogs, crocodiles, and dolphin-like ichthyosaurs, such as *Mixosaurus*. Corals and molluscs also evolved new forms.



Mixosaurus



Reverse view

Animals

The first flies evolved, and early archosaurs (ruling reptiles), such as *Euparkeria*, paved the way for dinosaurs.



Euparkeria

Dicroidium



Plants

Vegetation adapted to the dry climate. Flora included conifers and the seed fern *Dicroidium*, which was distributed throughout Pangea.

180 million years ago

The supercontinent Pangea separated into Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south, divided by the ever-growing Tethys Ocean. The climate was warm with no evidence of glaciation.

Tethys Ocean – formed when the supercontinent Pangea split into two.

In the water

The oceans were full of fish and marine reptiles, such as *Ichthyosaurus*, as well as bivalves (such as mussels), starfish, and sea urchins.



Ichthyosaurus



Reverse view

Barapasaurus

Animals

Dinosaurs dominated the land during this period. Among them was the giant, plant-eating *Barapasaurus*.



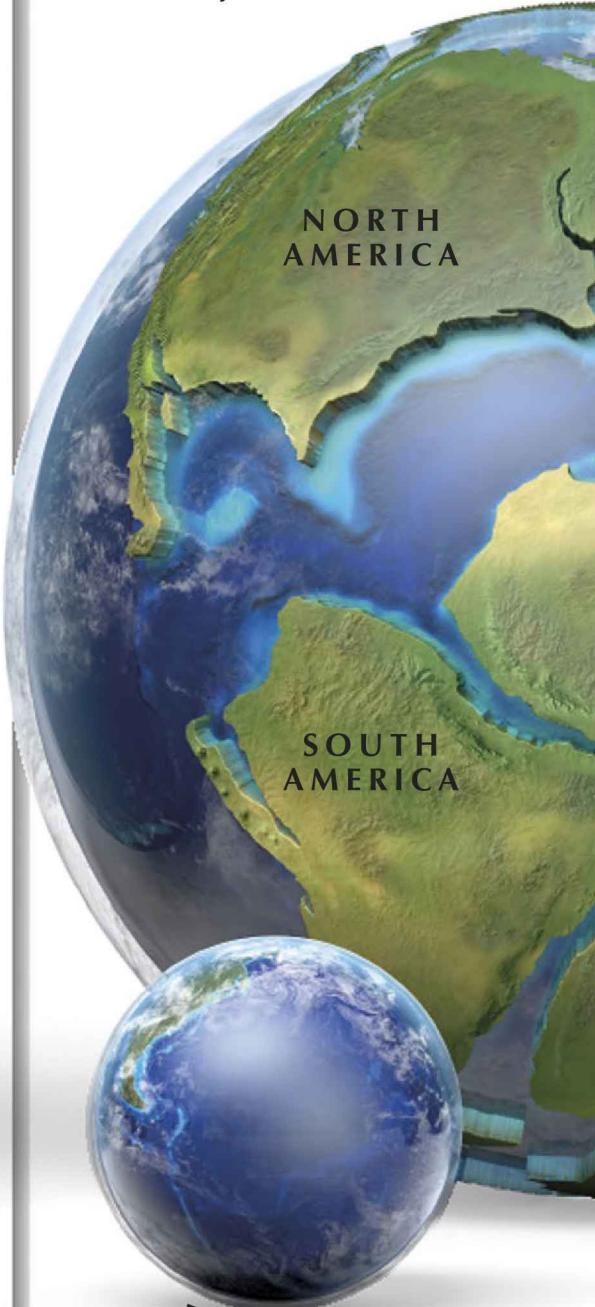
Monkey puzzle tree

Plants

Conifers, ginkgo, and monkey puzzle trees, dominated Laurasia. There were also ferns and palm-like cycads further south in tropical regions.

120 million years ago

Today's oceans began to take shape. The South Atlantic Ocean opened up as Africa and South America split apart, splintering Pangea further. North America was still attached to Europe, but India separated from western Australia and started to move in a northerly direction.



Animals

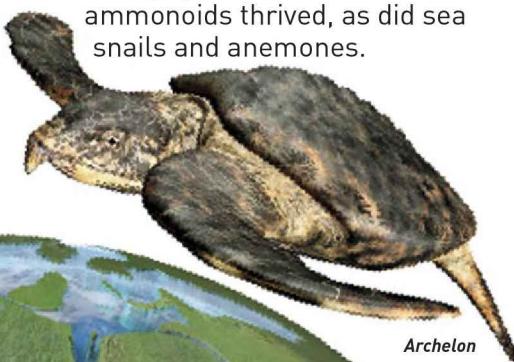
Dinosaurs, such as *Psittacosaurus*, ruled the land. The first mammals and marsupials appeared, and birds filled the skies.



Psittacosaurus

In the water

Archelon (giant sea turtles) and other sea reptiles flourished. New species of strangely coiled creatures called ammonoids thrived, as did sea snails and anemones.



Archelon



India had split from Africa.

80 million years ago

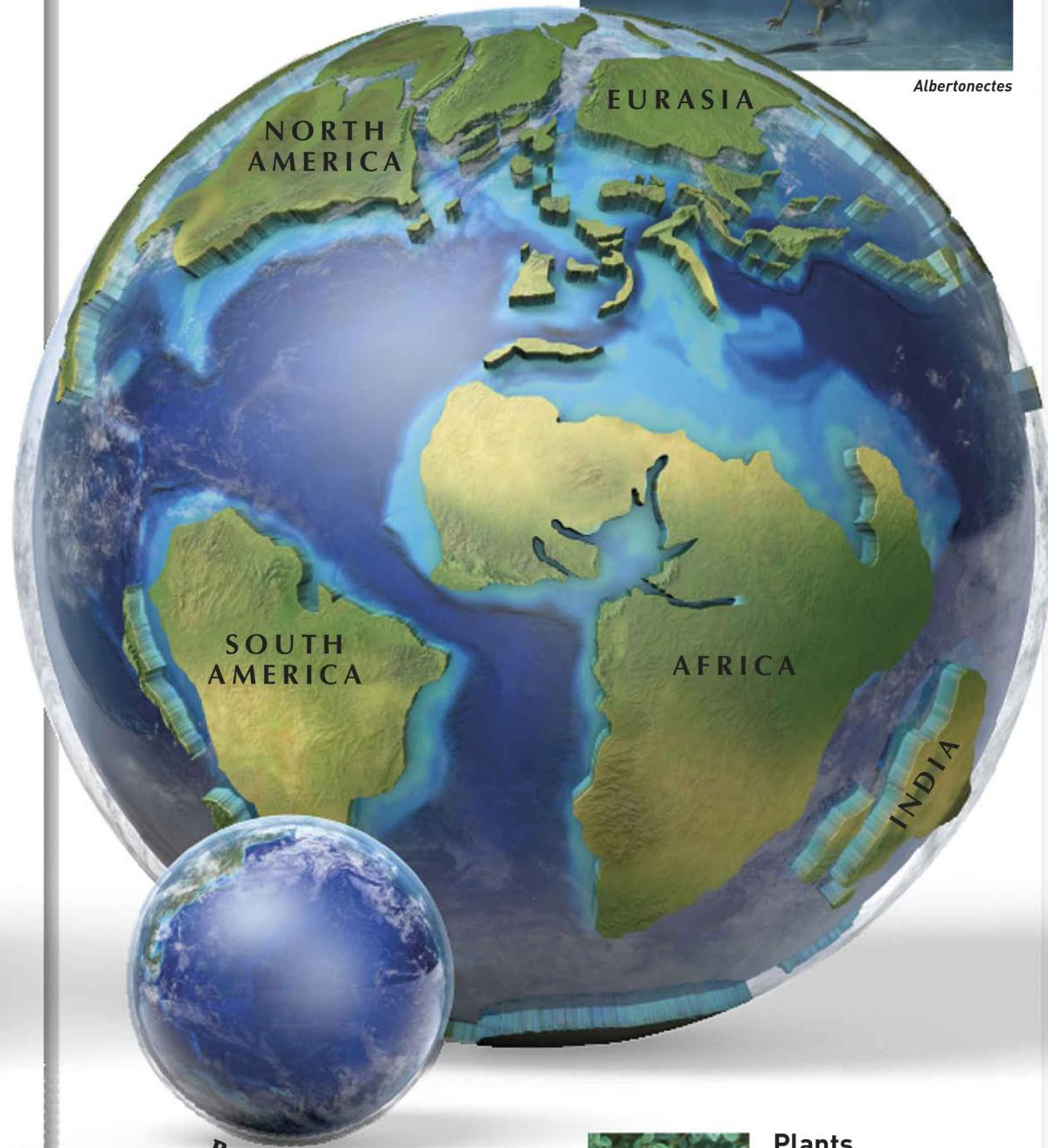
High sea levels flooded much of North America and created a seaway that extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the newly forming Atlantic Ocean. By 65 million years ago, India had collided with Asia, causing volcanic eruptions. An asteroid had hit Mexico, causing a mass extinction.

In the water

New types of shellfish continued to evolve and peculiar sea reptiles, such as the long-necked *Albertonectes*, came into being.



Albertonectes



Reverse view

Triceratops



Plants

The first angiosperms (flowering plants), such as magnolia, colonized the land, evolving alongside pollinating insects, including bees.

Animals

New dinosaurs evolved, including *Triceratops*. Snakes, ants, and termites also emerged.



Plants

More flowering plants started to appear on land. Conifers and palm-like cycads spread, thanks to the success of their seed-bearing cones.

40 million years ago

North and South America were separate, and Antarctica split away from Australia. These isolated landmasses saw animals and plants develop independently. Mountain ranges, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Himalayas, formed along plate margins, and the closing of the Tethys Ocean forced up the Alps.

In the water

Single-celled plankton were at their most diverse and coral reefs grew. At the other end of the size scale, *Basilosaurus* was an early whale.

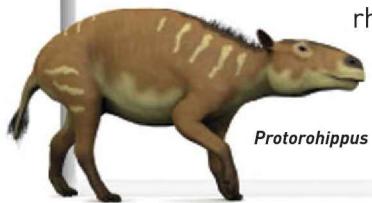
Basilosaurus



Reverse view

Animals

Moths, butterflies, birds, and bats flew above new mammals, such as rhinos, camels, and early horses, like *Protorohippus*.



Protorohippus



Plants

Grasslands expanded across the continents, and flowering plants and conifers were joined by deciduous trees, such as the beech.

50,000–18,000 years ago

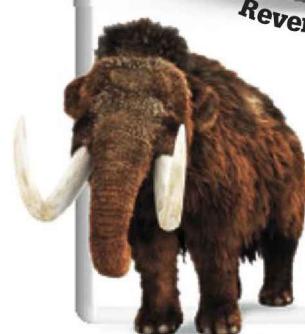
Part of a cycle of ice ages, ocean levels fell and rose as glaciers advanced and retreated. India nudged further into Asia, Australia into Indonesia, and Africa and Arabia into Europe and Asia. France and England were joined until rising sea levels created the English Channel.

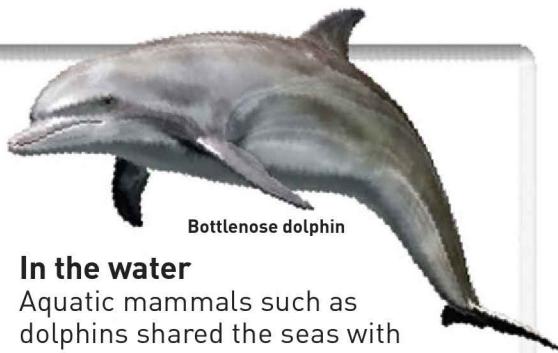


Reverse view

Animals

Giant mammals evolved, such as the woolly mammoth, with its thick fur coat for protection.





Bottlenose dolphin

In the water

Aquatic mammals such as dolphins shared the seas with plankton species that adapted to successive changes in the water temperature.



Present day

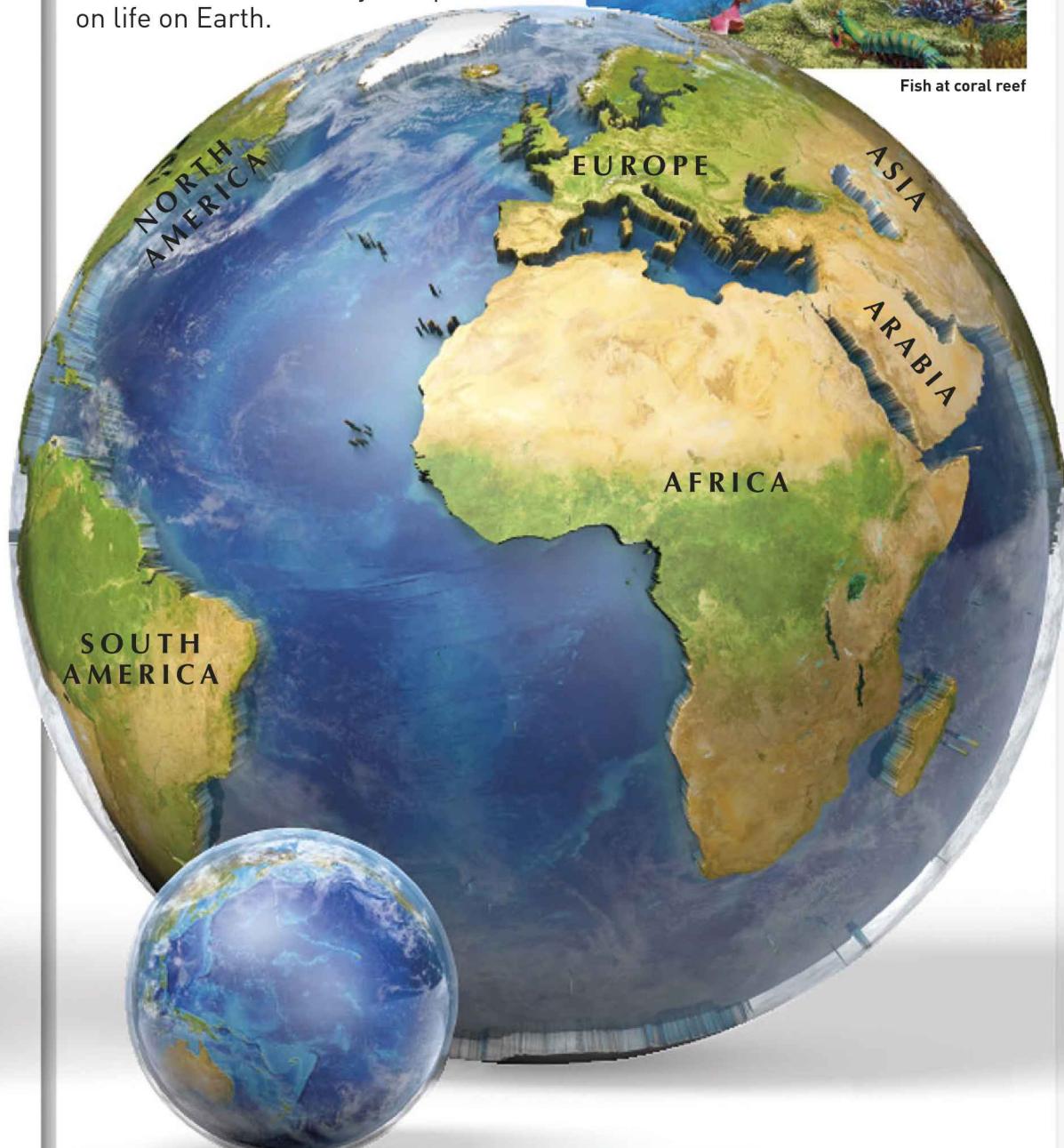
The last ice age ended and giant mammals became extinct around 12,000 years ago. By that time, humans had started to make their mark on the world. Human activity has triggered global warming and has affected natural cycles of glaciation. The consequences of this could have a major impact on life on Earth.

In the water

Coral reefs provide a habitat for up to a quarter of all marine species. Marine life is still diverse, with an estimated 2 million species living in the oceans.



Fish at coral reef



Plants

Steppe (grassland too dry for trees to grow) plant types expanded. Much land was tundra – so cold, dry, and windy, that only the hardiest plants grew.



Reverse view

Animals

The land today is home to an estimated 6 million species of animal, including the zebra.



Plants

Tropical rainforests are home to about 40,000 known plant species, from tiny mosses to towering mahogany and kapok trees.



North America



North America from space

North America is a huge continent that dominates the northern half of Earth's western hemisphere. From space, the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains are clearly visible.



North American Free Trade Agreement

Established in 1994, the North American Free Trade Association, also known as NAFTA, is an agreement signed by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its aim is to increase the flow of trade between the three countries.



ARCTIC OCEAN

Alaska

The United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million in 1867.

Beaufort Sea

Ellesmere Island

Baffin Bay

NuuH

ASIA

ALASKA

Bering Sea

Gulf of Alaska

Queen Charlotte Islands

Vancouver Island

Hawaii

The volcanic Pacific islands became the United States' 50th state in 1959

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
24,238,000 sq km
(9,358,340 sq miles)

Total population:
576 million

Number of countries: 23

Largest country:
Canada –
9,984,670 sq km
(3,855,103 sq miles)

Smallest country:

St Kitts and Nevis –
261 sq km (101 sq miles)

Largest country population:

United States of America –
321 million



1 Denali

At 6,194 m (20,321 ft), Denali, located in south-central Alaska, is the highest peak in North America. Denali means "tall" or "high" in Kokuyon, the language used by the people who live in the area that surrounds the mountain.

**4 Greenland**

Landscape

North America lies between the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, and stretches from the Arctic in the north to just short of the equator in the south. The continent is also home to Greenland, the world's largest island.



Fascinating facts

Largest lake: **Lake Superior, United States/Canada** – 83,270 sq km (32,151 sq miles)



Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel

Mount Macdonald Tunnel, British Columbia, Canada – 14.7 km (9.1 miles)



Metro line

Angrignon–Honoré-Beaugrand (Line 1 Green), Montreal Metro, Canada – 22.1 km (13.7 miles)

Deepest lake

Great Slave Lake, Canada –

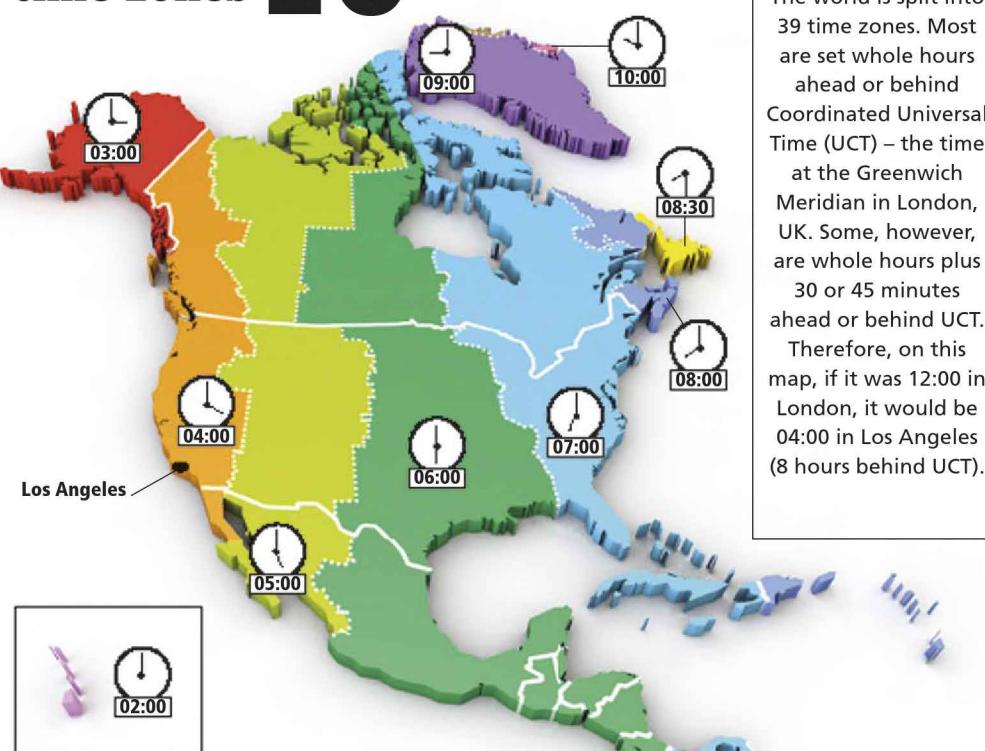
614 m (2,014 ft) deep

Road tunnel



Ted Williams Extension, Boston, United States – 4.2 km (2.6 miles)

Number of time zones **10**



Most active volcano

Kilauea, Hawaii, United States

Official languages 7

Amerindian languages • Creole • Danish (Greenland) • Dutch • English • French • Spanish



Busiest airport

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta, US – **101,489,887 passengers per year**

Fastest train

North America's fastest train is the **Acela Express**, in the US, which can reach speeds of up to **240 km/h (150 mph)**



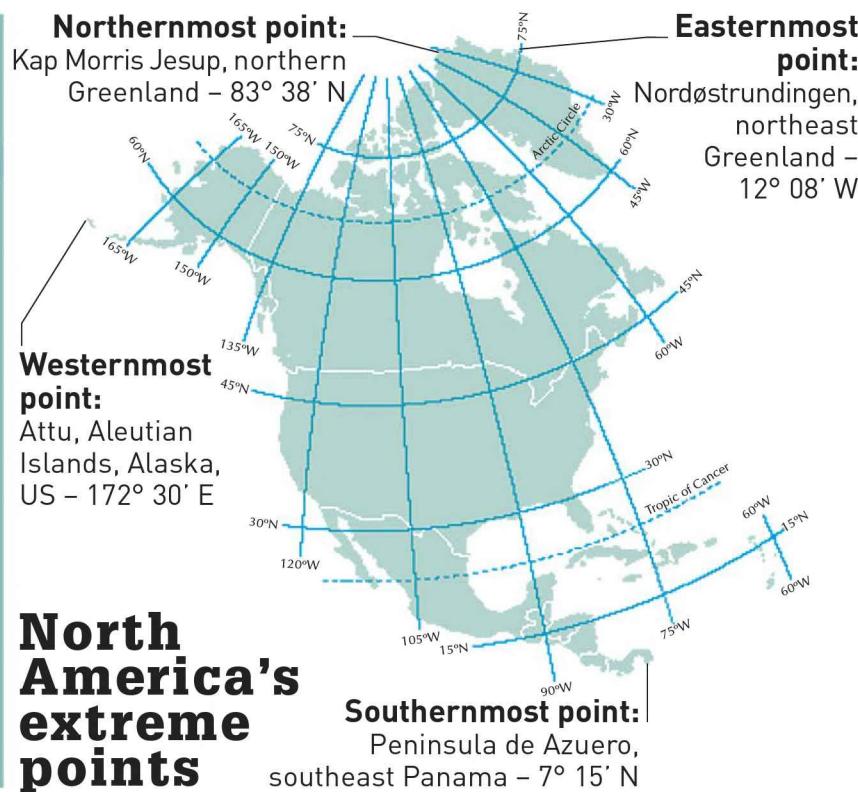
WATERFALLS

● Largest (by volume):

**Niagara Falls,
US/Canada** –

2,406.9 m³ (85,000 ft³)
of water per second

Highest: **Olo'upena
Falls, Molokai,
Hawaii, US** –
900 m (2,953 ft)



North America's extreme points



Longest coastline

Canada – **202,080 km
(125,567 miles)**

Longest bridge

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, Louisiana,
USA – **38.442 km (23.89 miles)**



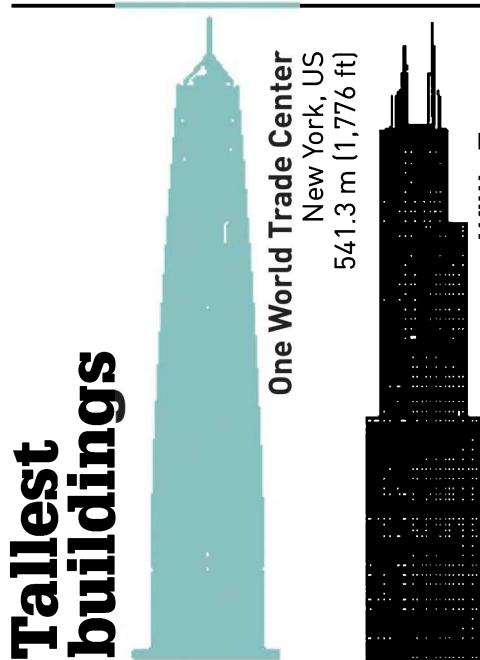
Highest bridge

Royal Gorge Bridge, Colorado,
USA – **291 m (955 ft)**



BIGGEST GLACIER

Bering Glacier,
Alaska, US



Tallest buildings

Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

New York, US
12.27 million

Los Angeles, US
5.2 million

Miami, US
4.52 million

Toronto, Canada
4.18 million

Vancouver, Canada
3.76 million

1 Mexico City

Mexico's capital is located in the Valley of Mexico and sits at an altitude of 2,240 m (7,350 ft). Continuously inhabited since 1325, it is the oldest city in North America and also the most populous, with 8.85 million inhabitants.

**Greenland**

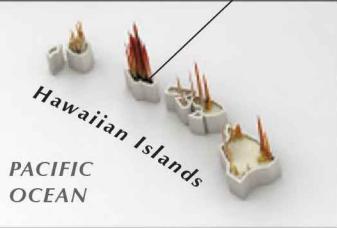
The world's largest island has the lowest population density in the world – 0.03 people per sq km (0.08 people per sq mile).

Anchorage

Alaska's most populated city, with 298,695 residents, Anchorage is the 65th largest city in the United States.

Honolulu

The westernmost and southernmost city in the United States, Honolulu has a population of 352,769.

**Vancouver**

The most densely populated city in Canada, with 5,249 inhabitants per sq km (13,590 per sq mile).

Edmonton

The capital of Alberta, Edmonton is the most northern city in North America with a metropolitan population of more than 1 million people.

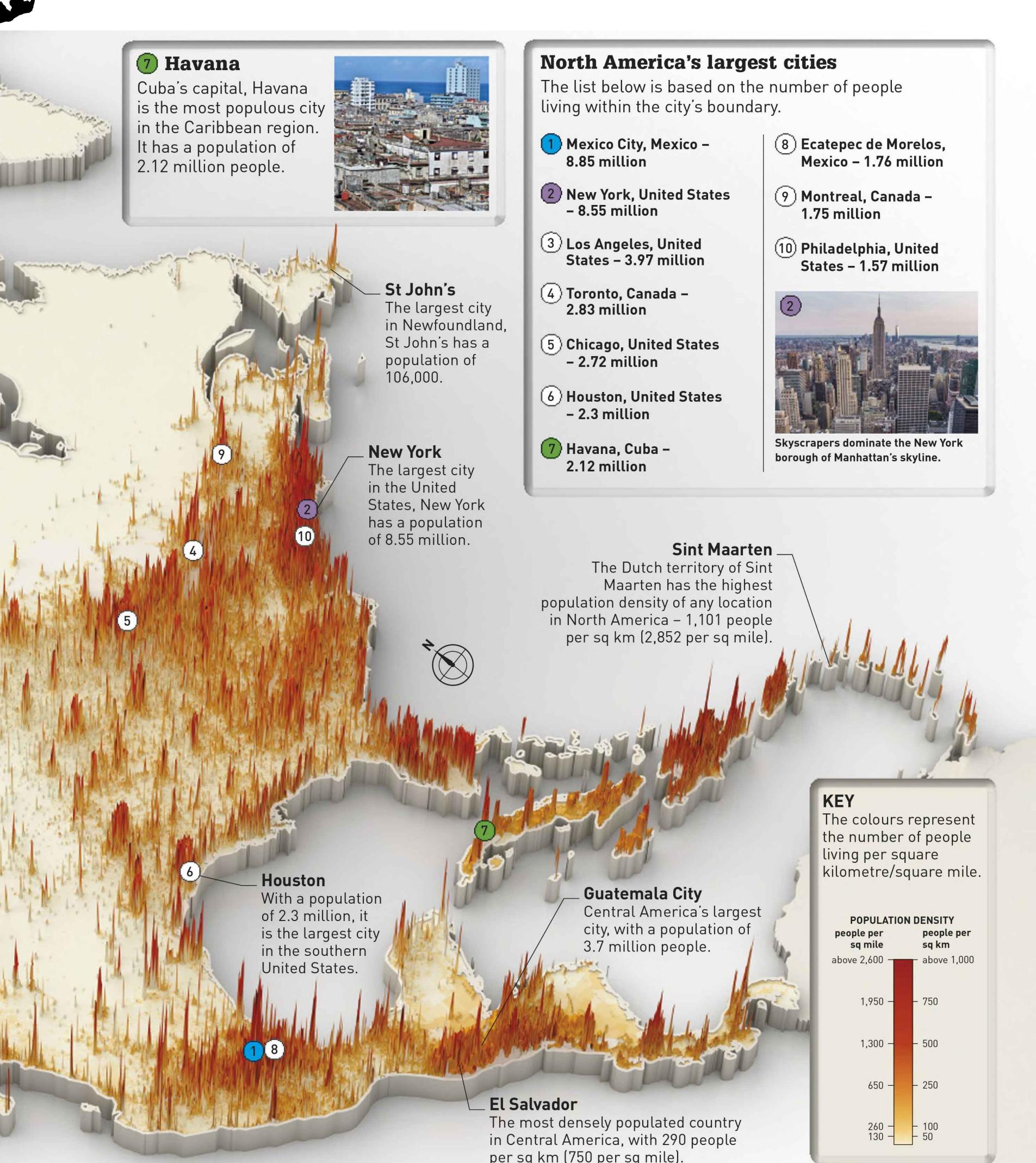
3

Los Angeles

The second largest city in the United States, it has a population of 3.97 million.

Population

Much of North America's landmass is sparsely populated, particularly in the frozen north. Population densities are highest along the United States' east and west coasts, around the Great Lakes, in the highlands of Mexico, and in the Caribbean islands, where the amount of available land is limited.



The Grand Canyon



Formed over millions of years by the flow of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is a steep-sided canyon in the state of Arizona, United States. It is 446 km (277 miles) long, 29 km (18 miles) wide at its widest point, and reaches a depth of 1,857 m (6,093 ft).

Granite Gorge

The most-visited section of the Grand Canyon, it is the starting point for the majority of rafting trips through the canyon along the Colorado River.



South Rim

Approximately 90 per cent of tourists catch their first dramatic glimpse of the Grand Canyon from here.



Painted Desert

Starting at the eastern edge of the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert is 19,425 sq km (7,500 sq miles). It is named for its multi-coloured layers of rock, which range from grey to purple, and from orange to pink.



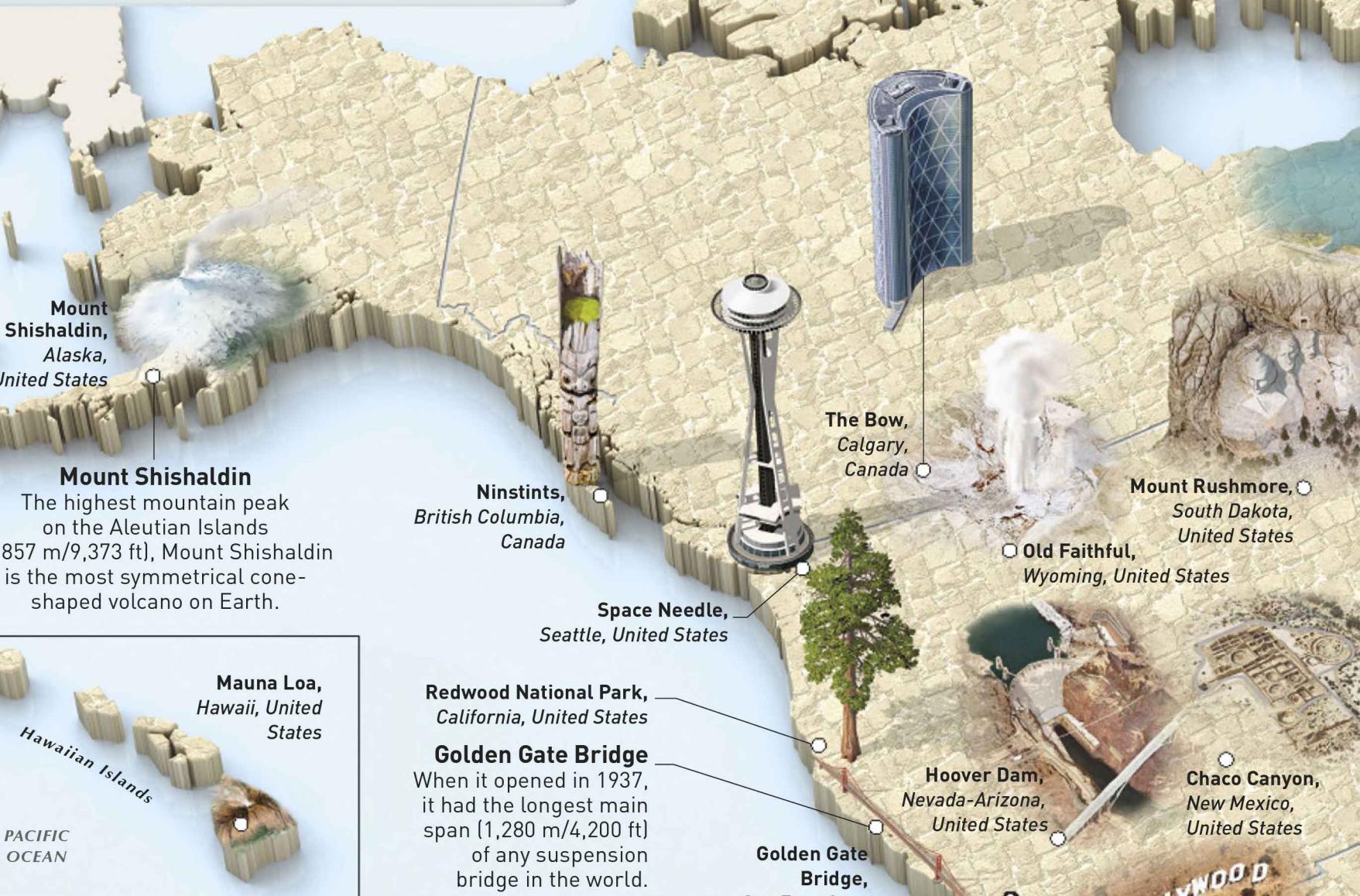
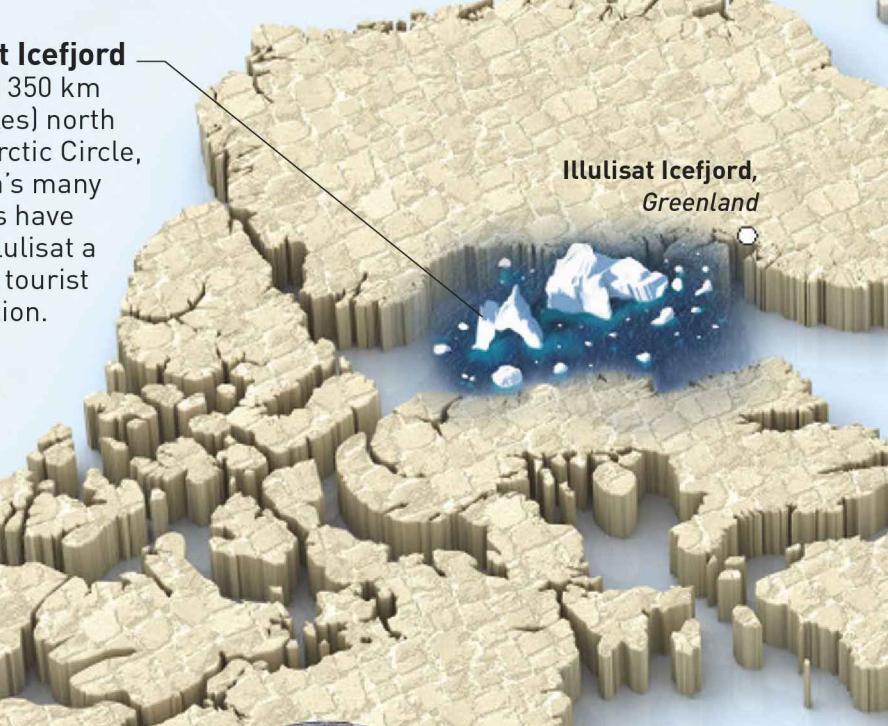
Chichen Itza

The largest and most famous Mayan site, Chichen Itza, Mexico, was a major urban centre between 750 and 1200 CE. The highlight of the site is the El Castillo pyramid, whose four sides are made up of 365 steps (one for each day of the solar year).



Illulissat Icefjord

Located 350 km (220 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, the area's many icebergs have made Illulissat a popular tourist destination.



The **United States** is the world's **second**-most-visited country.

KEY

○ Landmark location

Famous landmarks



• Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is the collective name for three waterfalls that straddle the Canada-United States border. The largest, the Horseshoe Falls, has an average drop of 57 m (188 ft).



Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley is a nickname given to an area in the southern United States that experiences a high number of tornadoes. A tornado is a column of air that spins at high speed while maintaining contact with both the ground and the storm clouds above.



Coldest inhabited place

Prospect Creek Camp, in Alaska, is the coldest inhabited place in North America. On 23 January 1971, the thermometer there tumbled to -62.2°C (-80°F).

ANCHORAGE

Lowest

The lowest temperature ever recorded in North America is -63°C (-81.4°F) at Snag, Yukon, in Canada, on 3 February 1947.



HONOLULU

PACIFIC OCEAN

Wettest

Henderson Lake, British Columbia, Canada, received an average of 7 m (276 in) of rain and snow when measurements were taken between 1923 to 1935 and 1998 to 2000.

Highest

The highest temperature ever recorded in North America is 56.7°C (134°F) in Death Valley, California, United States, on 10 July 1913.

EISMITTE

0

10

RESOLUTE

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9

IQALUIT

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6

COPPERMINE

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9

CHURCHILL

3

9

WINNIPEG

5

10

SIOUX CITY

5

12

DENVER

7

11

BOISE

4

14

VANCOUVER

3

10

SAN FRANCISCO

5

10

LAS VEGAS

8

13

LOS ANGELES

7

11

GUAYMAS

7

9

Driest

Bataguas in Baja California, Mexico, is the driest place in North America. It receives just 30.5 mm (1.2 in) of rain per year.

Climate

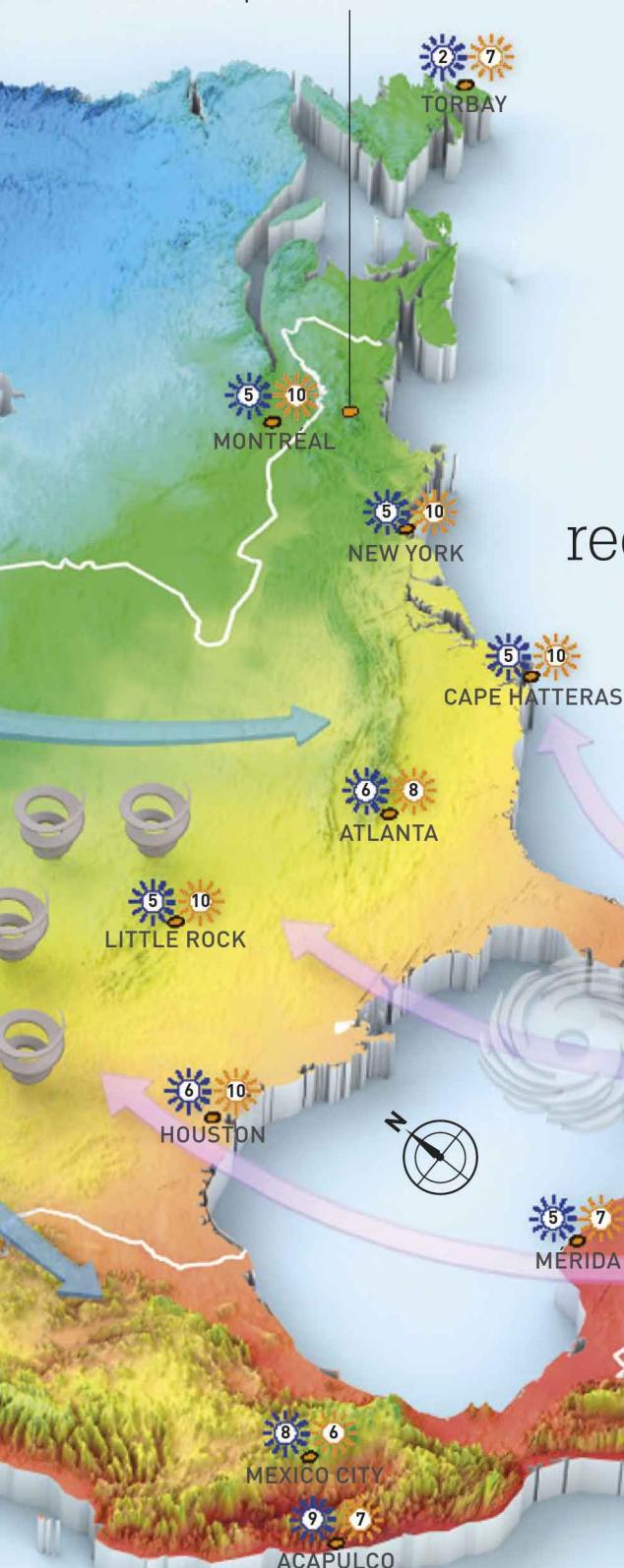
The climate in North America ranges from freezing Arctic conditions in the far north to desert in the southwest, and tropical conditions in Florida, Central America, and the Caribbean. Central and southern regions are prone to severe storms, including hurricanes and tornadoes.

Polar nights

In Greenland, the sun does not rise between early December and mid-January and the days are dark.

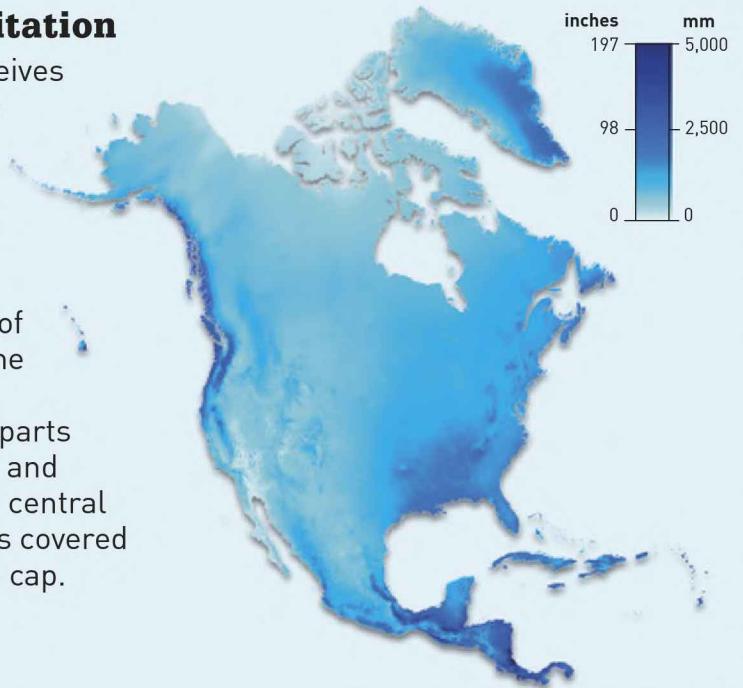
Windiest

Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, United States, is the windiest location in North America. On 12 April 1934, a gust of 372 km/h (231 mph) was recorded there.



Annual precipitation

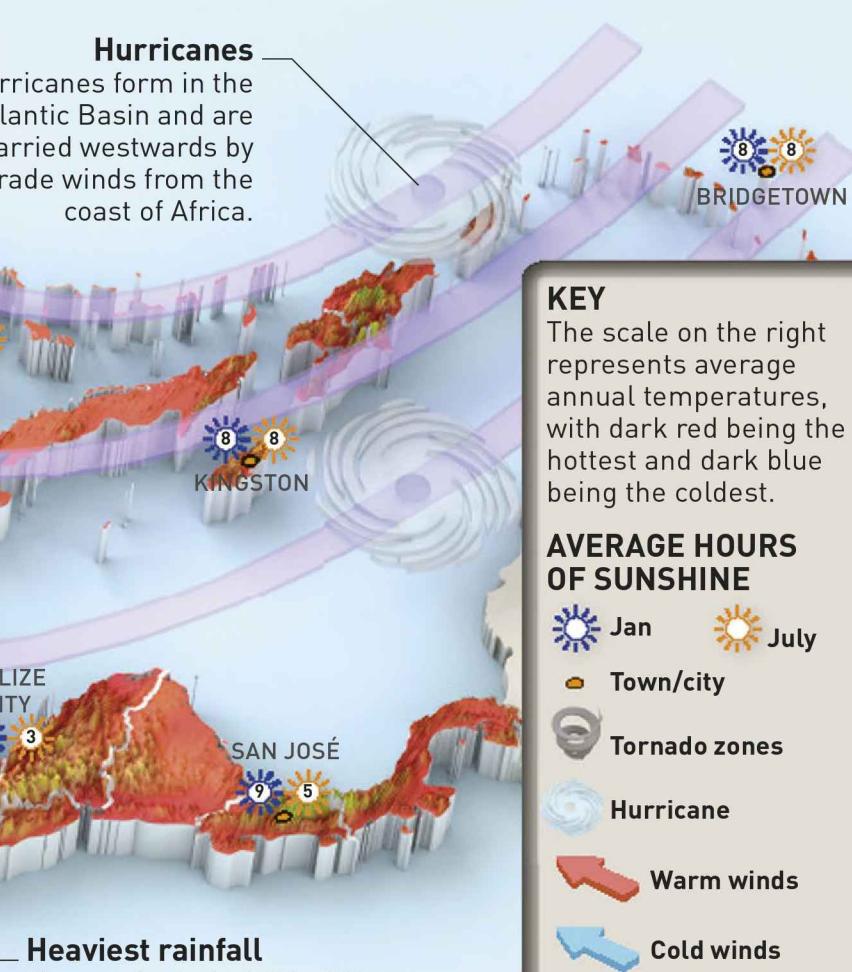
North America receives moderate amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) compared to other continents. The wettest areas are the west coast of Canada, the extreme northwest of the United States, and parts of Central America and the Caribbean. The central part of Greenland is covered by a permanent ice cap.



On average over **1,000 tornadoes** are recorded in the United States **every year**.

Hurricanes

Hurricanes form in the Atlantic Basin and are carried westwards by trade winds from the coast of Africa.

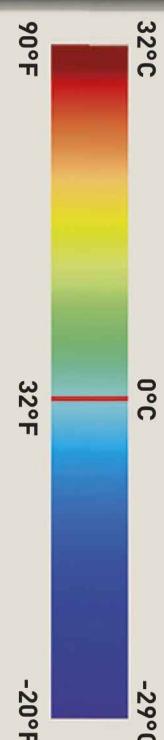


KEY

The scale on the right represents average annual temperatures, with dark red being the hottest and dark blue being the coldest.

AVERAGE HOURS OF SUNSHINE

- Jan (blue sun)
- July (yellow sun)
- Town/city (orange dot)
- Tornado zones (gray swirl)
- Hurricane (purple swirl)
- Warm winds (red arrow)
- Cold winds (blue arrow)
- Direction of hurricanes (purple arrow)



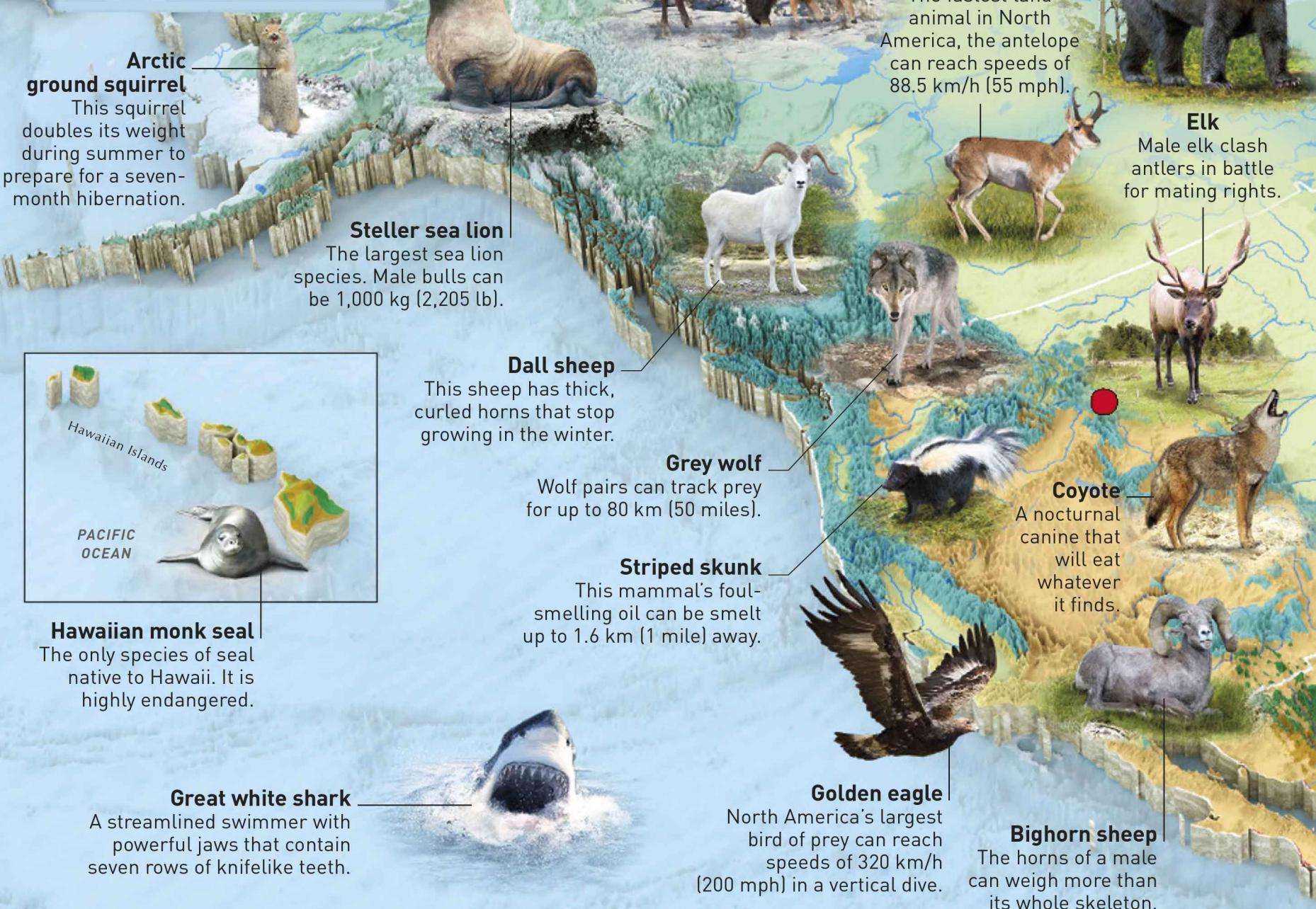
Heaviest rainfall

The most rain to fall in 24 hours in North America was 1,633.98 mm (64.3 in), in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, on 21–22 October 2005.

BIOMES

North America has a number of different biomes – large geographical areas of distinctive plant and animal groups – from deciduous forests in the south to tundra in the far north.

Ice
Tundra
Boreal forest/Taiga
Temperate coniferous forest
Temperate broadleaf forest
Temperate grassland
Mediterranean
Tropical coniferous forest
Tropical broadleaf forest
Tropical dry broadleaf forest
Tropical, sub-tropical grassland
Desert
Flooded grassland
Mangrove



Wildlife



A diverse array of animals roams North America's lands and waters. The contrasting biomes – from freezing tundra in the north to tropical rainforest in the south – provide a remarkable range of habitats for countless species to survive and thrive.

Oldest and largest

Situated above a dormant (inactive) volcano, and boasting more than half of the world's great geysers, Yellowstone, in Wyoming, United States, became the world's first national park in 1872. This has helped preserve the landscape from human exploitation, and protect its animal herds from poachers.

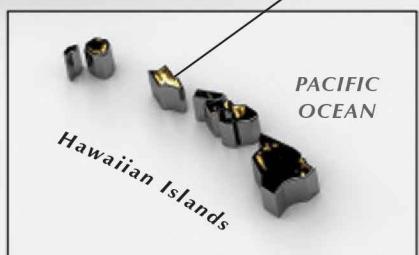


Canada

Despite its vast size (only the Russian Federation is larger), almost 90 per cent of Canada is uninhabitable. The cold temperatures in the country's frozen north are too extreme for humans to live there.

**Hawaii**

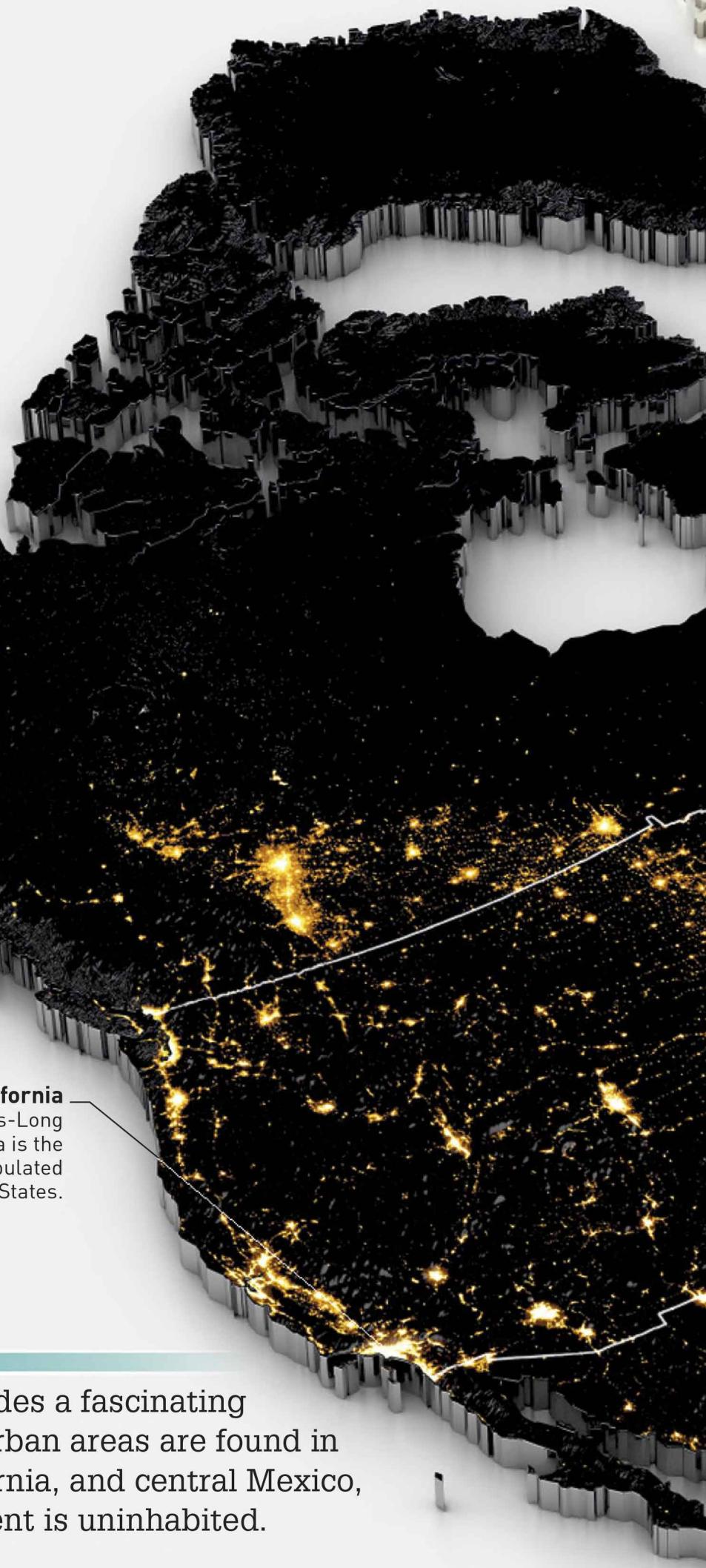
With 953,000 people, O'ahu is the most populous of Hawaii's main islands.

**California**

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area is the most densely populated region in the United States.

By night

This image of North America at night provides a fascinating insight into where people live. The major urban areas are found in the eastern half of the United States, California, and central Mexico, but much of the northern half of the continent is uninhabited.



Greenland

This vast island has only 13 towns with a population of more than 1,000 people. The largest is Nuuk, which has a population of 16,500.

Canada

An estimated 90 per cent of Canada's population live within 160 km (100 miles) of the US border.

Great Lakes

Towns and cities frame the shores of the Great Lakes, which are clearly visible in this image.

Mexico

Over half the country's 123.2 million population live in a small band of land in the centre of the country.

District of Columbia

Over 600,000 people live in an area of just 177 sq km (68 sq miles).

Caribbean islands

Although some of North America's most densely populated territories can be found in the Caribbean region, some of the islands are also home to ever-growing rural populations.



● **Cayman Islands** – Along with Anguilla, Bermuda, and Sint Maarten, this is one of four North American territories with an entirely urban population.



● **Haiti** – A consequence of the devastating 2010 earthquake, the number of people living in towns increased by 3.78 per cent between 2010 and 2015.



● **Montserrat** – Only 9 per cent of this volcanic island's population live in an urban environment.



● **Trinidad and Tobago** – Fewer people live in towns here than anywhere else in North America.

KEY

Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

■ **Rural area**

■ **Urban area**

Costa Rica

Has an urban population of 76.8 per cent – the highest in Central America.



SOUTH AMERICA



Mountains and forests

The Andes mountain range and the mighty Amazon rainforest dominate South America, which runs from the Caribbean Sea in the north to the Tierra del Fuego in the south.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Venezuela

Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in South America, and the oil industry is crucial to the country's economy.

The only remaining colony on the South American mainland, French Guiana is governed by France.

French Guiana

CAYENNE
French Guiana
(to France)

PARAMARIBO

GEORGETOWN

GUYANA

SURINAME

COLOMBIA

CARACAS

BOGOTÁ

ECUADOR

QUITO

GUAYAQUIL

Galápagos Islands
(to Ecuador)

PACIFIC OCEAN

Maracaibo

Maracay

Cartagena

Gulf of Darien

Gulf of Panama

Medellín

Cali

IQUITOS

PERU

LIMA

Peru

The Inca Empire covered much of the territory of modern Peru. It was overthrown by Spanish soldiers led by Francisco Pizarro in 1533.

NORTH AMERICA

For 11 years following its independence from Spain in 1819, Colombia also included the territories of Venezuela and Ecuador.

For centuries, most of South America was under Spanish or Portuguese rule. Although the majority of countries became independent in the early 19th century, the languages and cultures of their past rulers have shaped the lives of people living there today.

Countries and borders

For centuries, most of South America was under Spanish or Portuguese rule. Although the majority of countries became independent in the early 19th century, the languages and cultures of their past rulers have shaped the lives of people living there today.

Simón Bolívar

Popularly known as "the Liberator", Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) was a Venezuelan military leader who played a major role in the continent's uprising against the Spanish Empire. His ideas – and dream of creating a united continent – continue to inspire many South Americans even today.





FAST FACTS

Total land area:

17,840,000 sq km
(6,890,000 sq miles)

Total population:

410 million

Number of countries: 12

Largest country:

Brazil – 8,515,770 sq km
(3,287,957 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Suriname – 163,820 sq km
(63,251 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Brazil – 204.3 million



The Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro is home to the world's biggest carnival.

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

Falkland Islands

The islands are a self-governing British colony.

In 1982, Argentina invaded, leading to a brief, but bloody, war.

STANLEY

Falkland Islands
(to UK)



PACIFIC OCEAN

Landscape

South America boasts an extraordinary range of landscapes, from the tropical forests on the northern coast to the icy fjords of Tierra del Fuego. The Andes mountains extend along the west coast, while the Amazon Basin dominates the heart of the continent. To the south lie the grasslands of the Pampas.



3 Lake Titicaca

South America's largest lake, Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable body of water in the world, with an elevation of 3,800 m (12,500 ft). It is home to the Uros people, who live on floating islands made from reeds. One island even houses a meeting hall and a school.

**FAST FACTS**

1 Highest point:
Aconcagua, Argentina – 6,959 m (22,831 ft)

2 Longest river:
Amazon, Brazil/
Colombia/Peru –
6,516 km (4,049 miles)

3 Largest lake:
Lake Titicaca, Peru/
Bolivia – 8,372 sq km
(3,232 sq miles)

4 Largest island:
Tierra del Fuego,
Argentina/Chile –
47,992 sq km
(18,530 sq miles)



Aconcagua, in Argentina, is the highest peak in South America.

Strait of Magellan

This strait, separating Tierra del Fuego from mainland South America, is notoriously difficult to sail through.



Falkland Islands

Strait of Magellan

Tierra del Fuego

Fascinating facts



BIGGEST GLACIER

Brüggen Glacier, Chile
– 1,265 sq km (488 sq miles)
and 66 km (41 miles) long

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Brazil (10)

French Guiana,
Suriname, Guyana,
Venezuela, Colombia,
Peru, Bolivia, **Paraguay**,
Argentina, **Uruguay**

Longest tunnels

Railway tunnel



Cuajone–El Sargento tunnel, Peru –
14.72 km (9.1 miles)

Road tunnel



Fernando Gomez Martinez tunnel,
Colombia – 4.6 km
(2.86 miles)

Number of official languages

5

Portuguese ■ Spanish ■
English ■ Dutch ■ French

Longest coastline



Brazil – 7,491 km
(4,655 miles)

Most active volcano

Villarrica, Chile



Busiest airport

Biggest airport São Paulo-Guarulhos
Airport, Brazil – passengers in 2015:
35.96 million

Highest:

Angel Falls, Venezuela

– 979 m (3,212 ft)

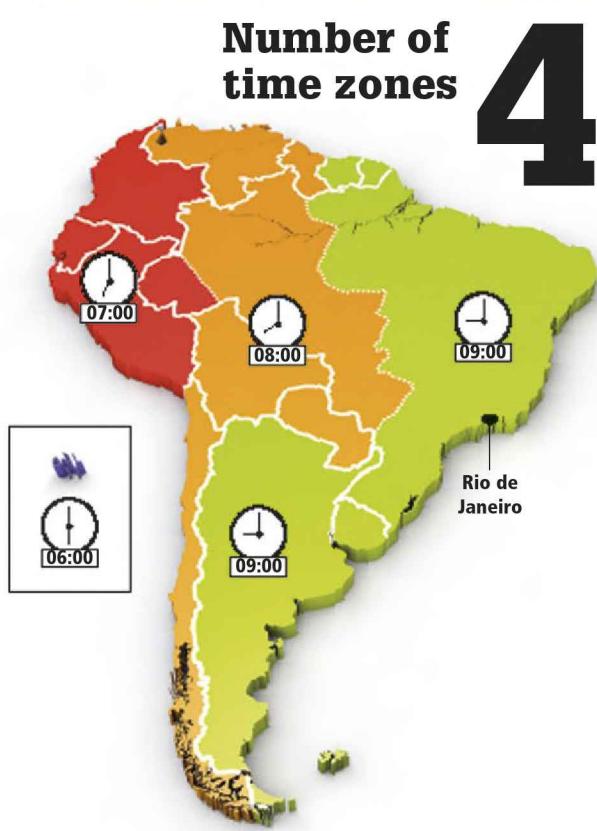


Largest (by volume):

Iguazú Falls, Brazil –

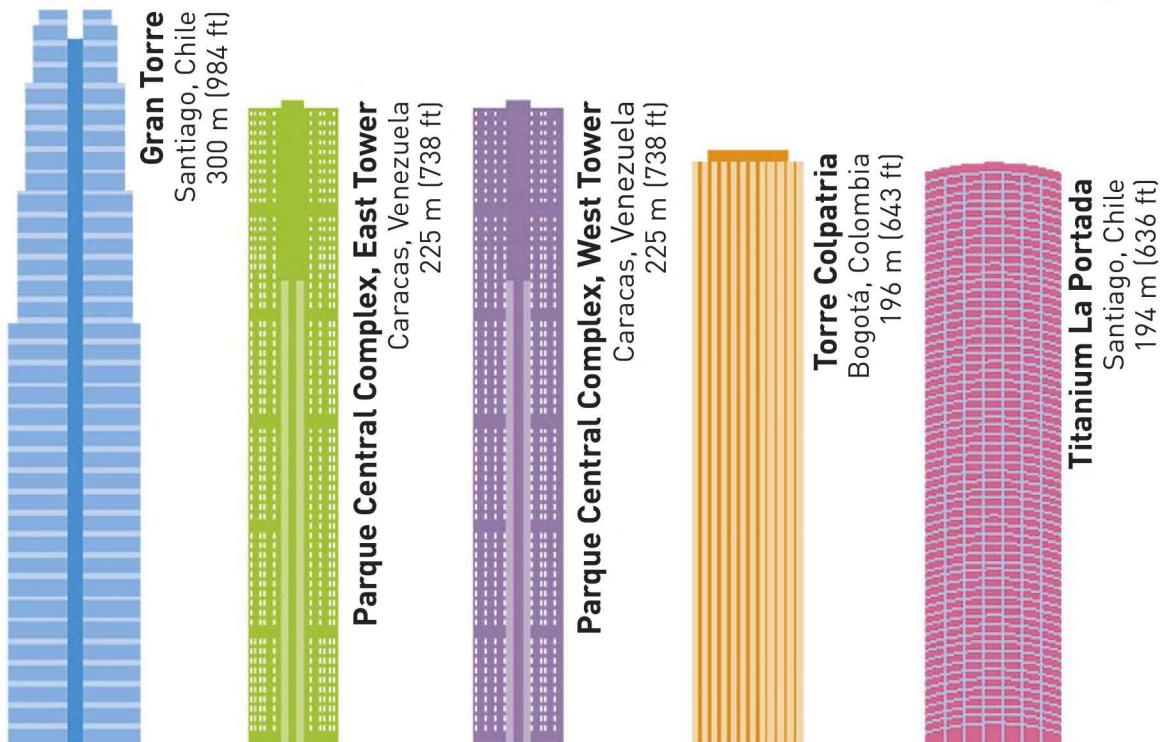
Argentina – 1,756 m³

(62,012 ft³) of water per second



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 09:00 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3 hours behind UCT).

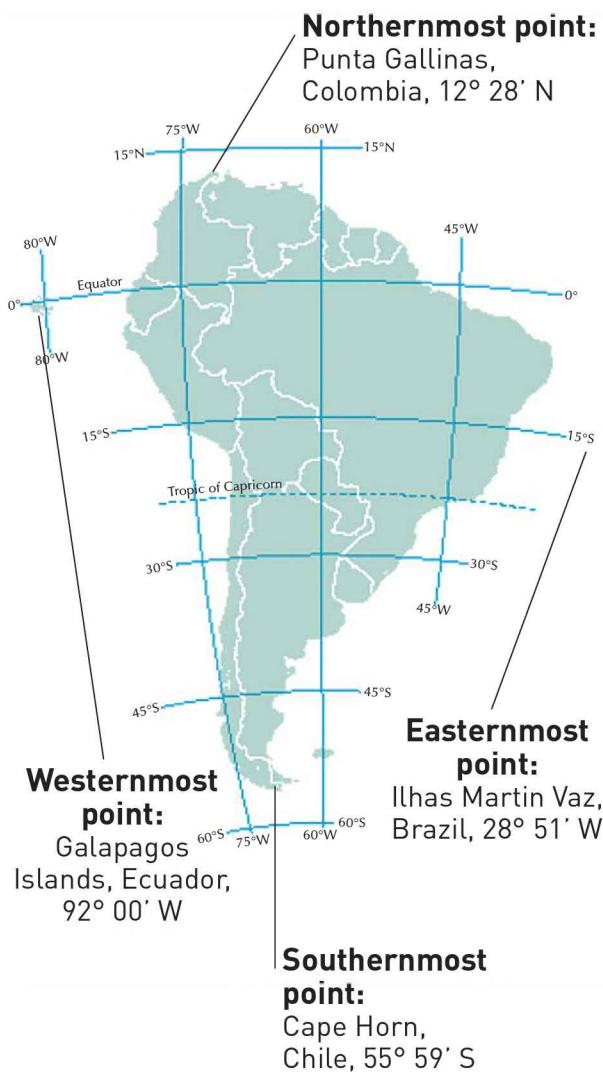
Tallest buildings



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

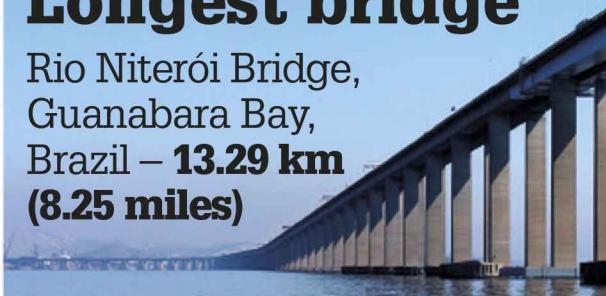


South America's extreme points



Longest bridge

Rio Niterói Bridge, Guanabara Bay, Brazil – **13.29 km (8.25 miles)**



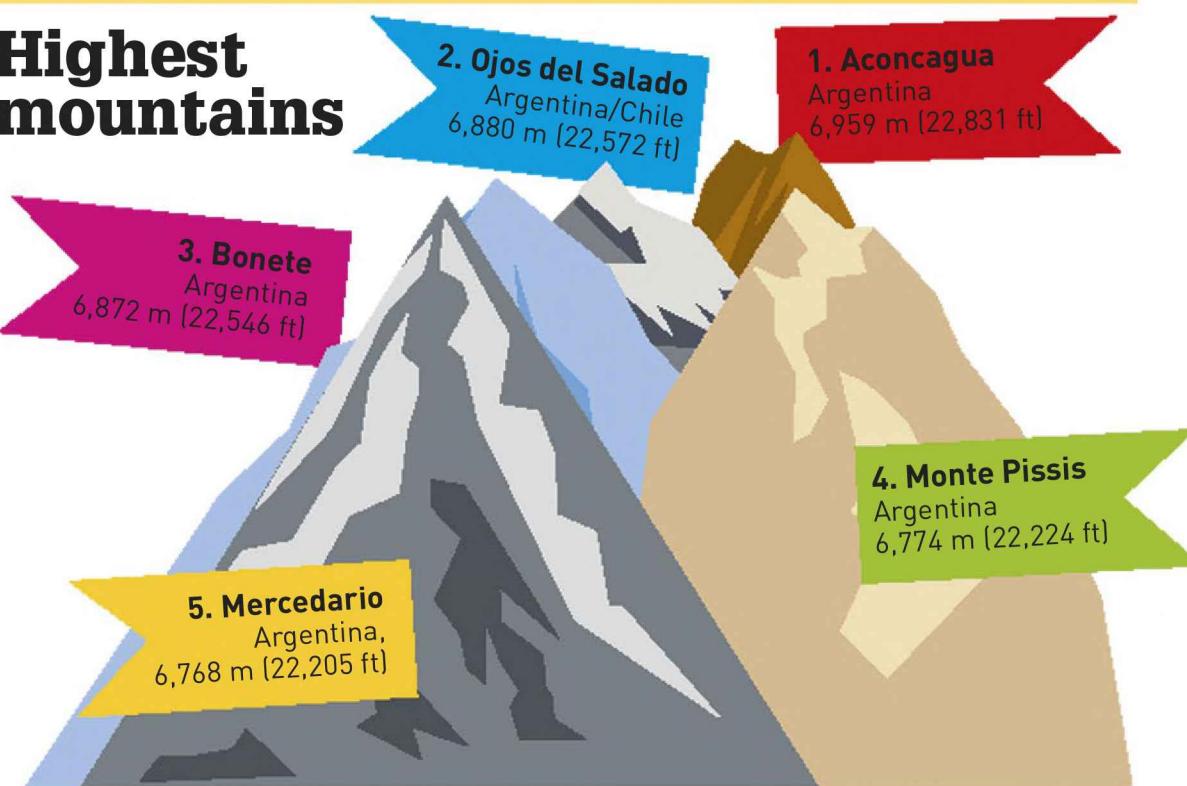
Lowest point

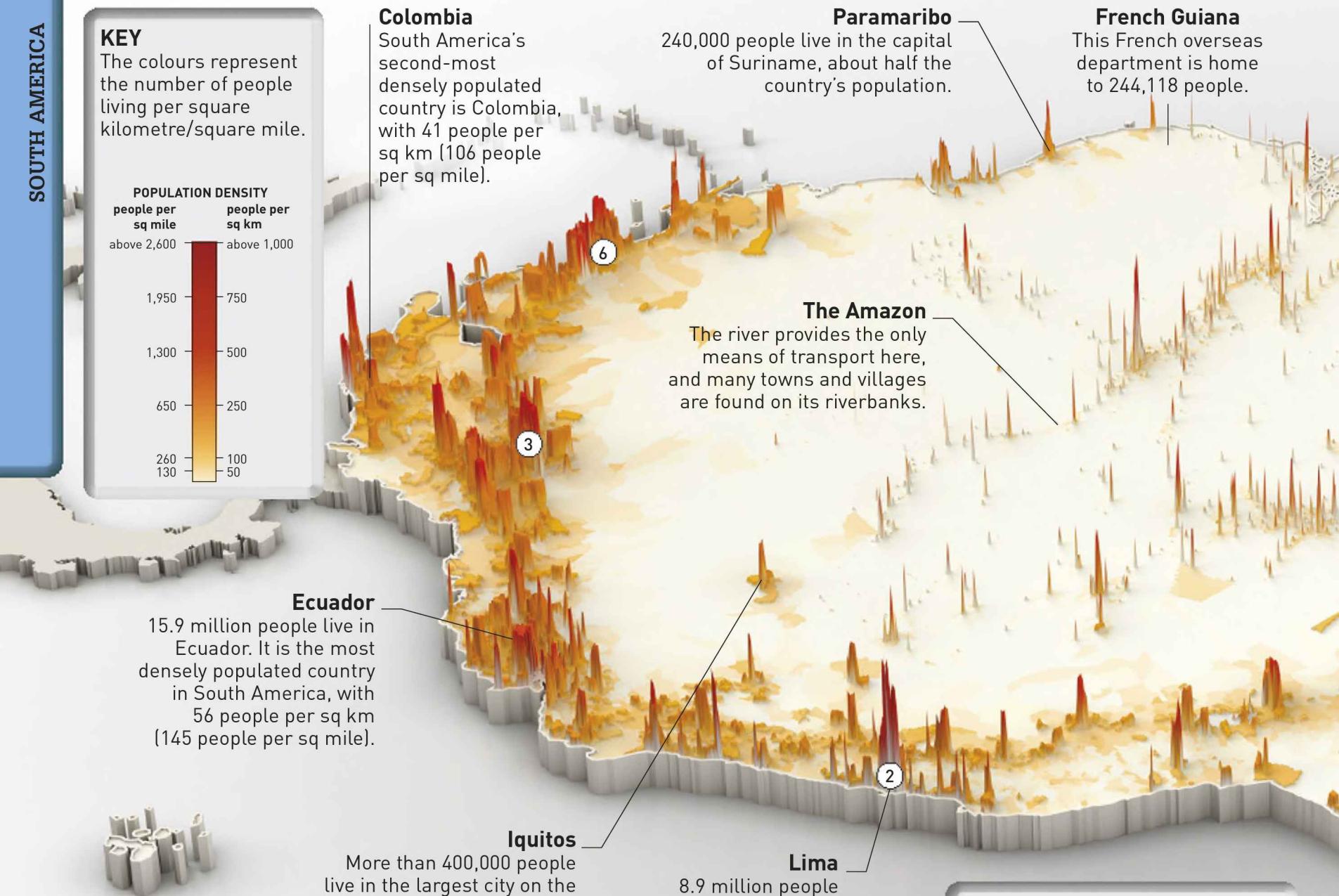
Laguna del Carbón, Santa Cruz, Argentina – **-104.9 m (-344 ft)**

This is the seventh-lowest point on Earth's surface.

Landlocked countries 2 – Bolivia and Paraguay

Highest mountains





Population

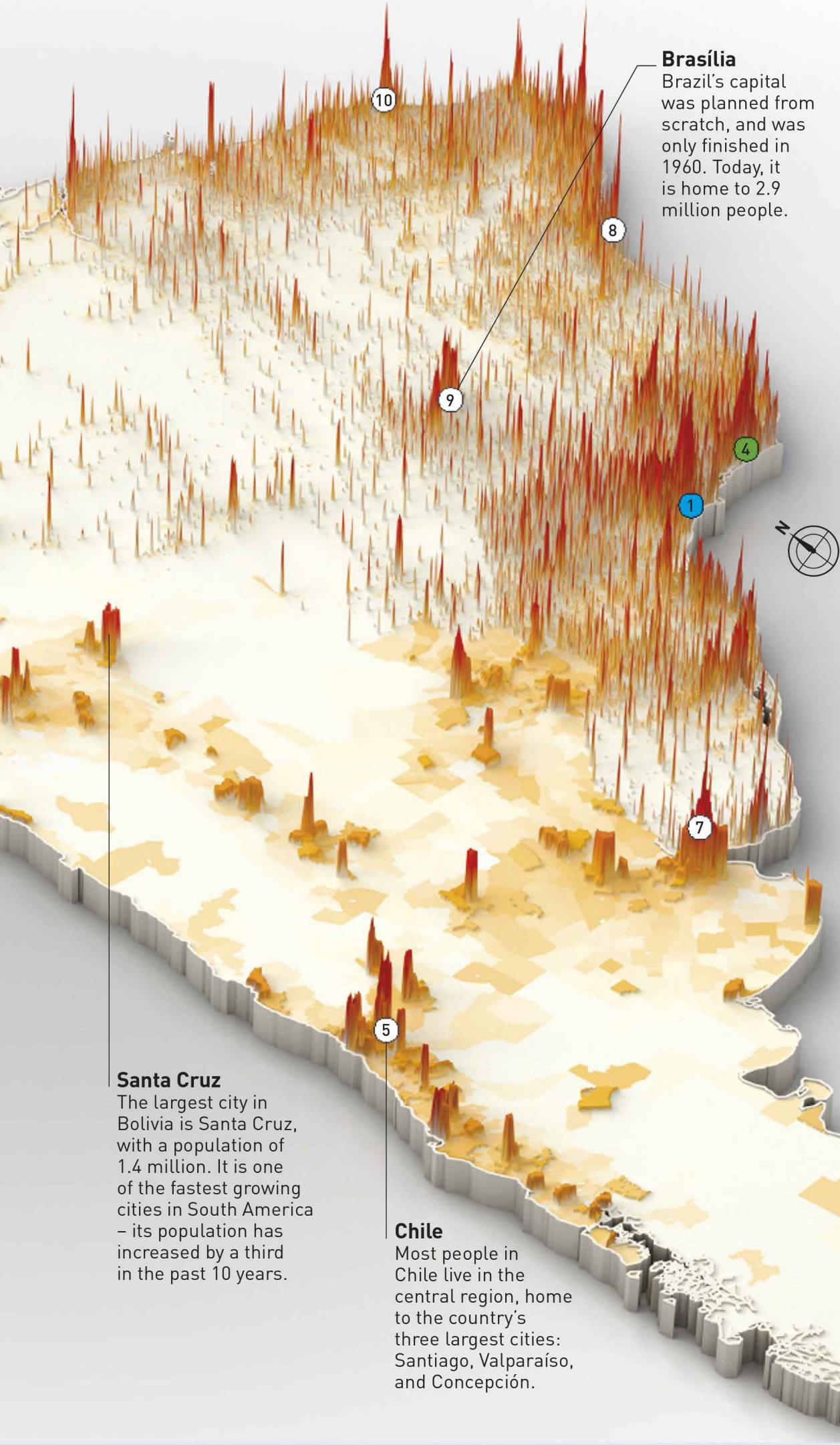
South America is highly urbanized, with the majority of its population living in cities such as Lima and Bogotá in the north west, or São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on the east coast of Brazil. By contrast, Amazonia, the Altiplano plateau, and Patagonia remain sparsely populated.

São Paulo

The discovery of gold near São Paulo in the 1690s attracted settlers from around the world. Today, South America's largest city is a bustling business centre, with a population of 12 million.



Tower blocks and modern architecture dominate the centre of São Paulo.



South America's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- 1 São Paulo, Brazil – 12 million
- 2 Lima, Peru – 8.9 million
- 3 Bogotá, Colombia – 7.9 million
- 4 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 6.5 million
- 5 Santiago, Chile – 5.5 million
- 6 Caracas, Venezuela – 3.3 million
- 7 Buenos Aires, Argentina – 3 million
- 8 Salvador, Brazil – 2.9 million
- 9 Brasília, Brazil – 2.9 million
- 10 Fortaleza, Brazil – 2.6 million



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second-largest city, was the country's capital until 1960.



The Trans-Amazonian Highway

Running from João Pessoa in the east to the Amazonian city of Lábrea, the Trans-Amazonian Highway is about 4,000 km (2,485 miles) long.

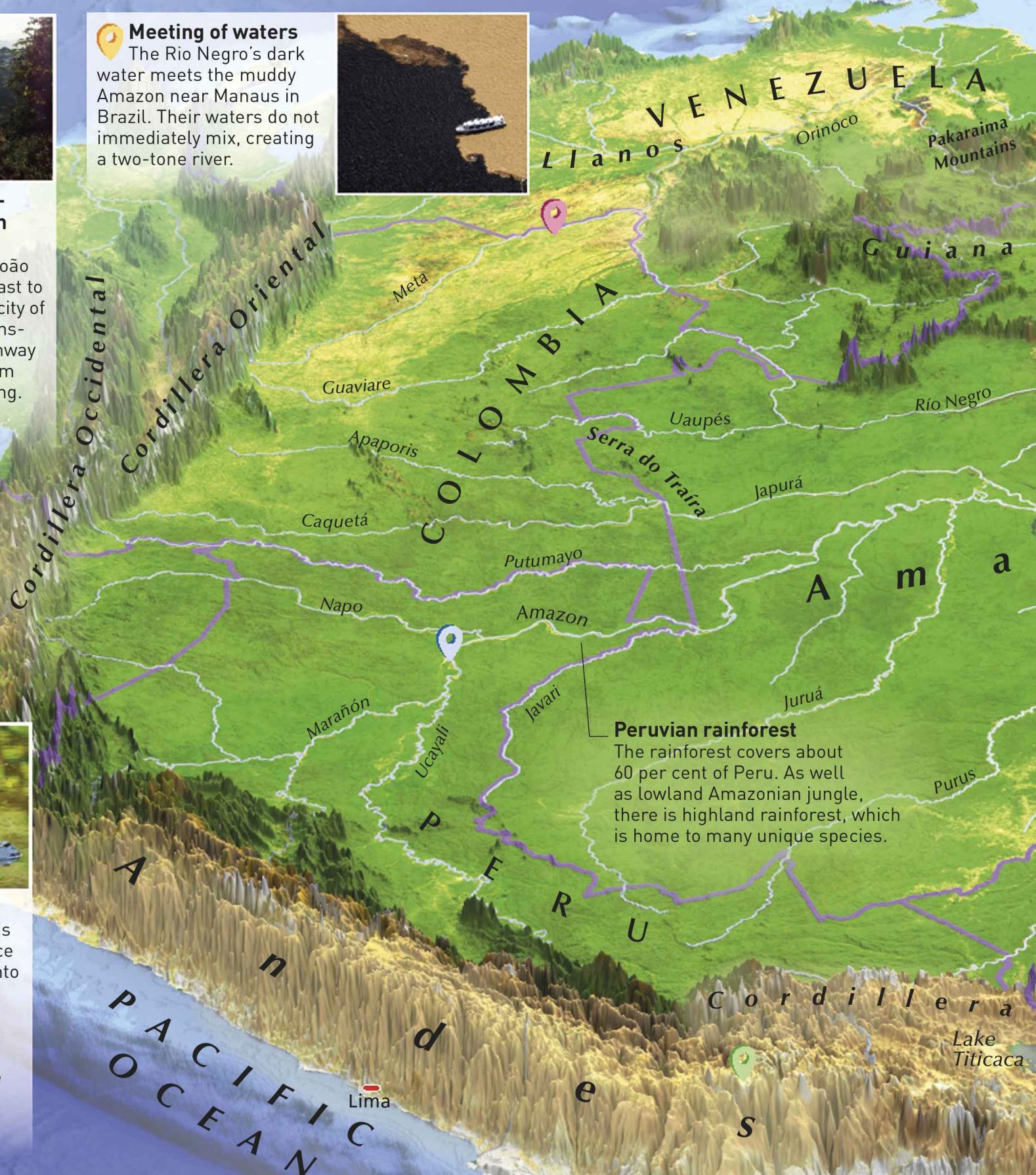


Los Llanos

Rains flood this vast grassland once a year, turning it into a huge temporary marshland. It is home to many species of water birds, and the rare Orinoco crocodile.

Meeting of waters

The Rio Negro's dark water meets the muddy Amazon near Manaus in Brazil. Their waters do not immediately mix, creating a two-tone river.



Belén

Buildings are attached to stilts in the Peruvian village of Belén. The houses float on the river itself, rising and falling with its waters.



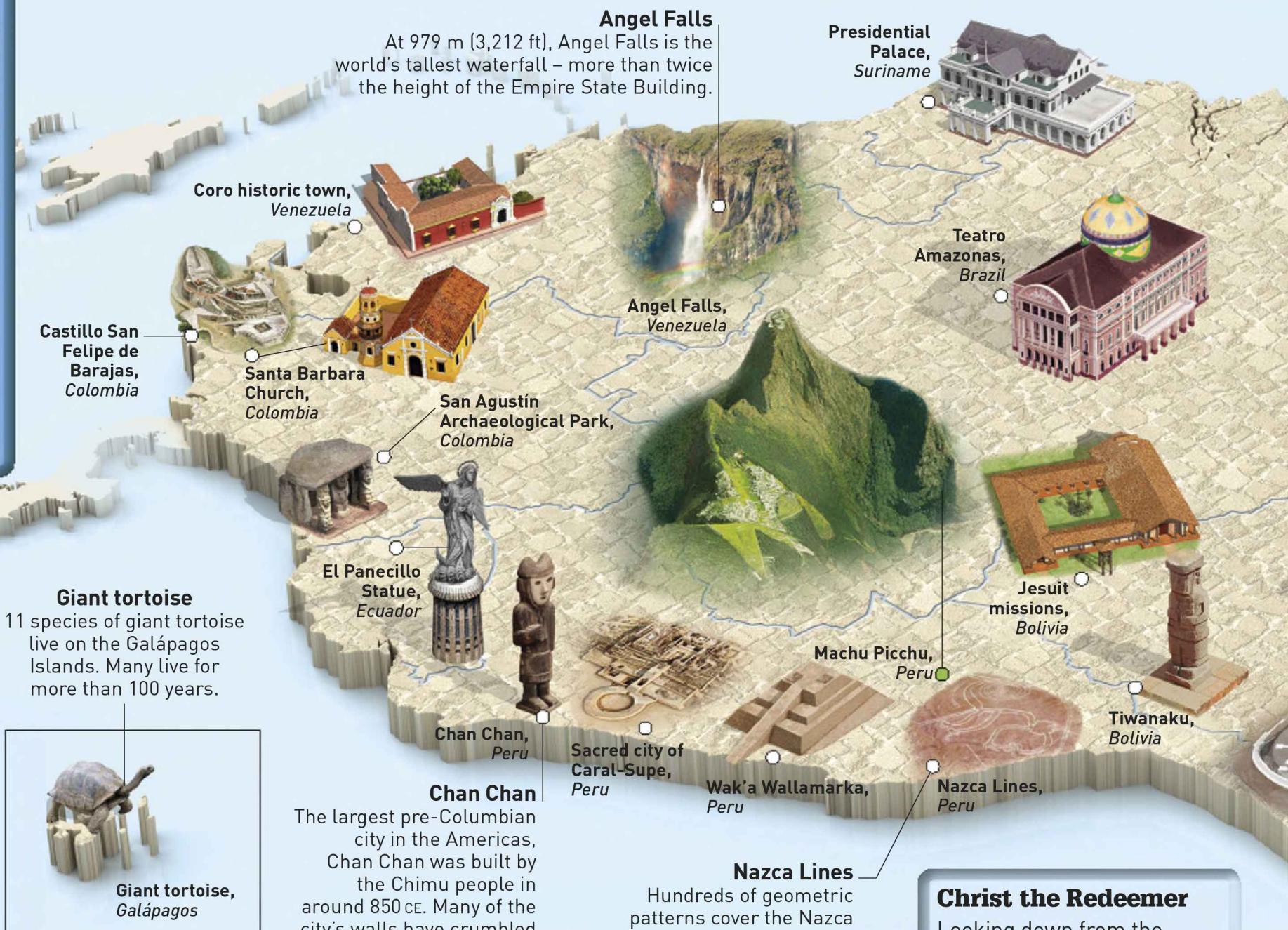
Nevado Mismi

The source of the Amazon river lies at the foot of a cliff face on Nevado Mismi, a mountain in the Peruvian Andes. It is marked by a cross.





Home to the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon Basin covers an area almost as large as Australia. It is Earth's most dynamic ecosystem; 3 million different types of plant and animal live in its lush jungle, and new species are still being discovered there every year.



Famous landmarks

South America is home to an incredible wealth of cultural sites, ranging from the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu to the modern architecture of Brasília. It also boasts awe-inspiring natural wonders, such as Venezuela's Angel Falls and the glaciers of Chile and Argentina.



The giant statue of Jesus Christ towers over Brazil's second city, Rio de Janeiro.

Christ the Redeemer

Looking down from the summit of Mount Corcovado onto Rio de Janeiro, Christ the Redeemer is one of the continent's best-loved landmarks. Finished in 1931, the 39-m (128-ft) tall statue took five years to build.



Buildings

South America's buildings reflect the continent's rich history. They vary from the stunning ruins left behind by the Inca Empire to the many churches and monasteries built when the region was ruled by Spain and Portugal.



● The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu is located high in the Peruvian Andes. The site's purpose remains a mystery, but it may have had a religious role.



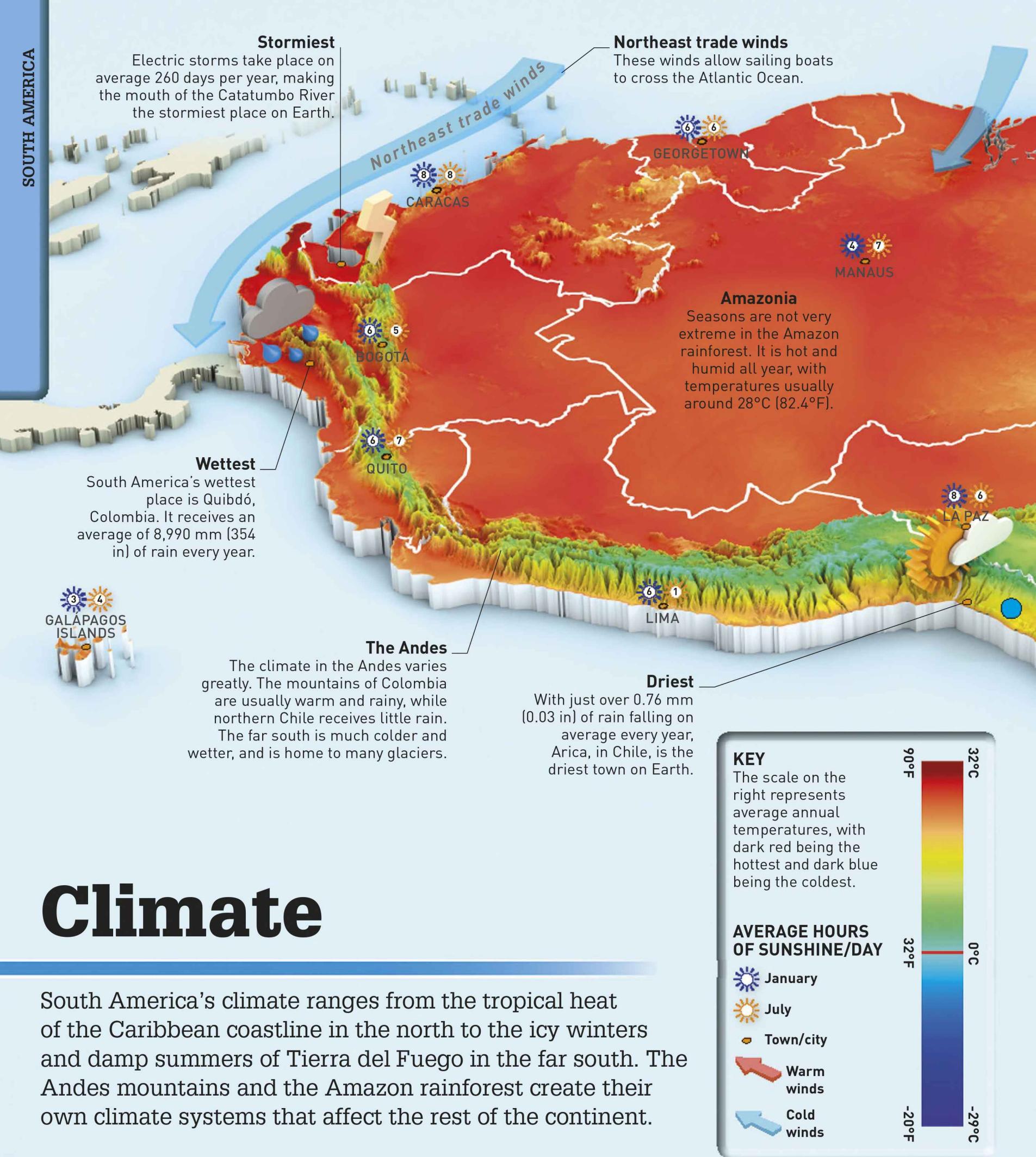
● The Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in Ouro Preto, Brazil, is just one of the beautiful churches built during the time Brazil was a Portuguese colony.

Floralis Generica giant flower

This sculpture of a flower in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, is 23 m (76 ft) high. It opens each morning and closes at night.

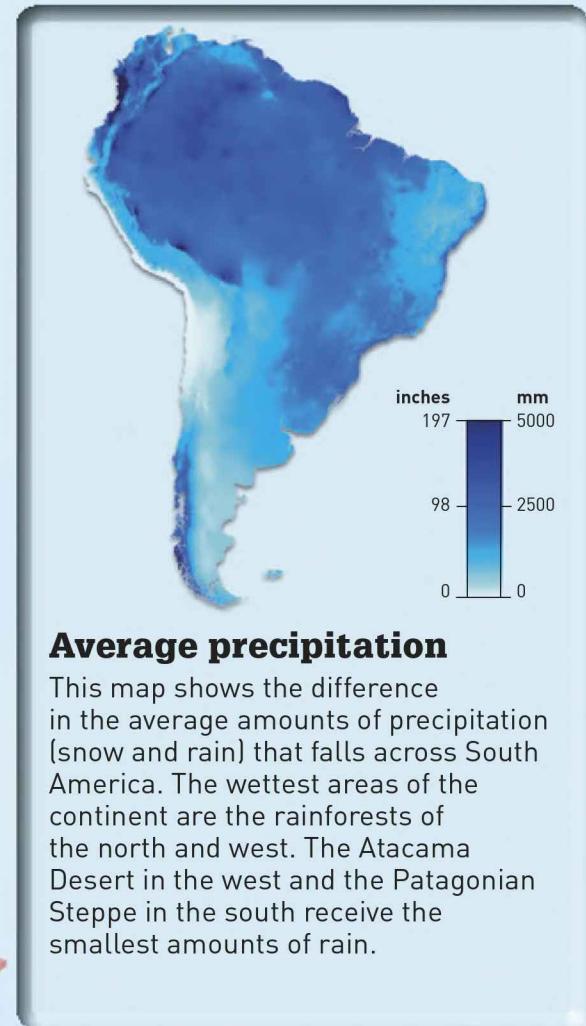
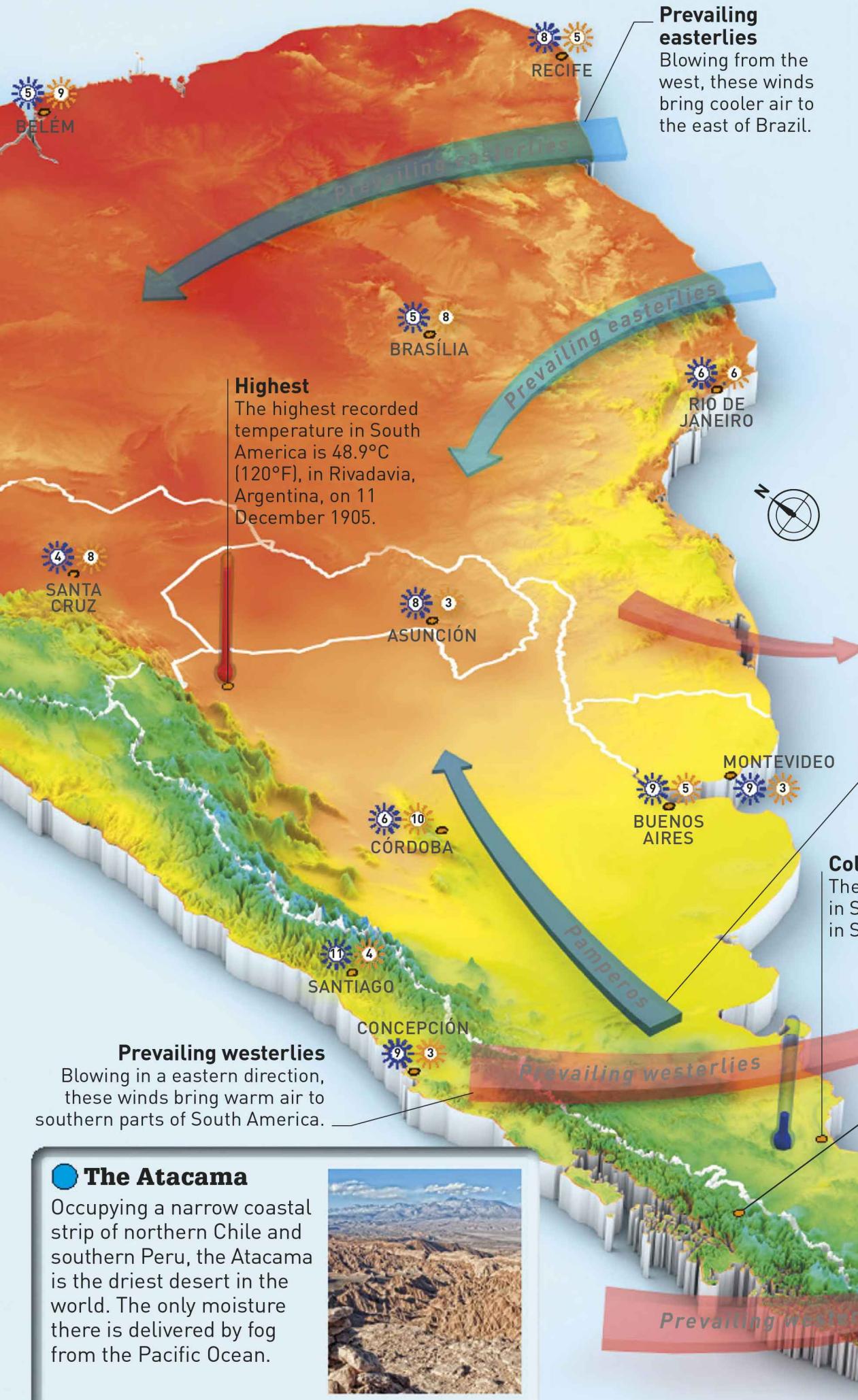


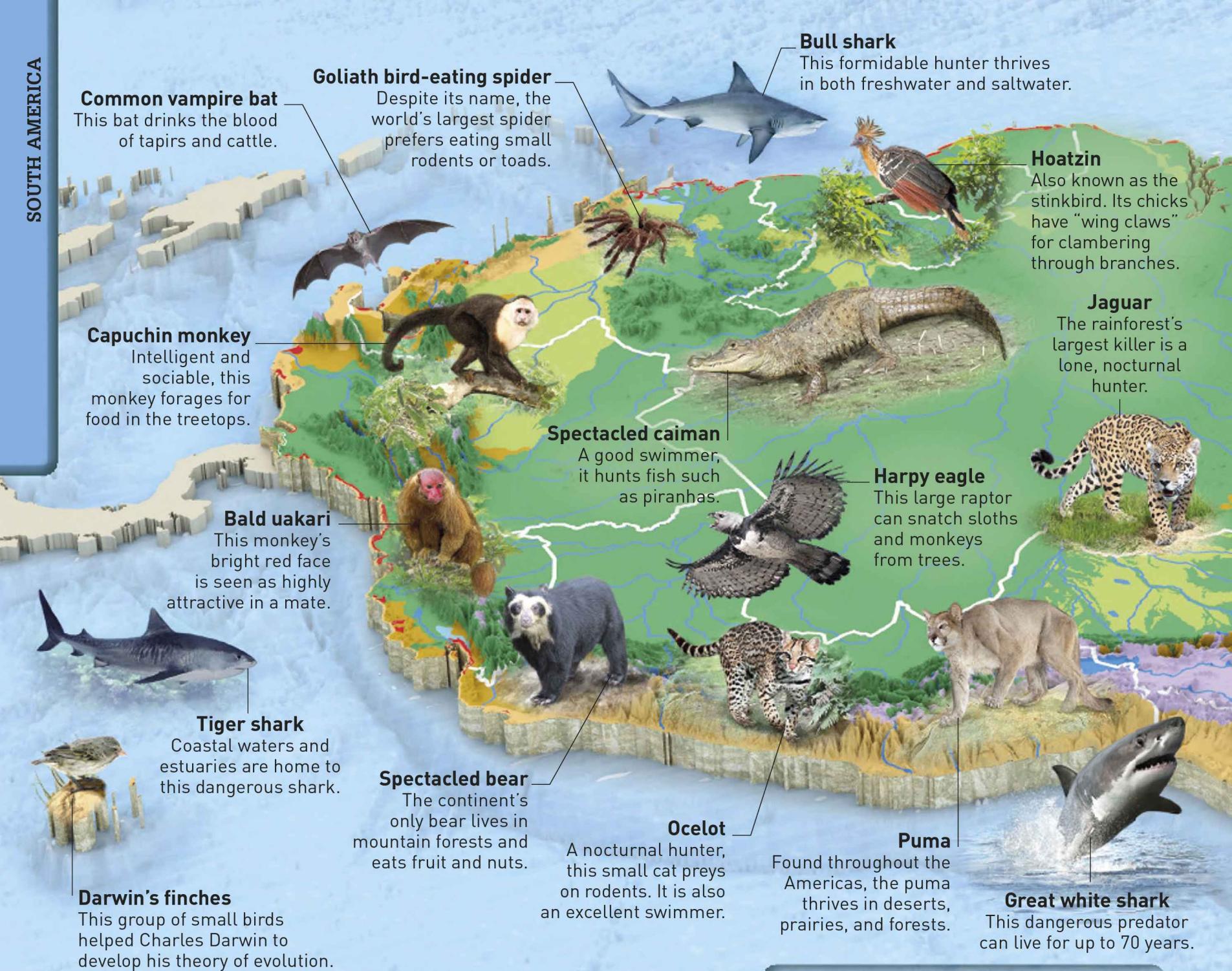
Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina



Climate

South America's climate ranges from the tropical heat of the Caribbean coastline in the north to the icy winters and damp summers of Tierra del Fuego in the far south. The Andes mountains and the Amazon rainforest create their own climate systems that affect the rest of the continent.





Wildlife

The grasslands, mountains, and rainforests of South America contain an incredible variety of plant and animal species. This vast range of habitats is home to many species of birds, mammals, and amphibians that are found nowhere else on Earth.

BIOMES

Tropical broadleaf forest is widespread in the north, before it gives way to temperate grasslands and temperate broadleaf forest in the south.

Ice
Temperate broadleaf forest
Temperate grassland
Mediterranean
Tropical broadleaf forest
Tropical dry broadleaf forest
Mountain
Desert
Flooded grassland
Mangrove

Amazonian river dolphin

Its long snout is used to explore the river bed and get between tree roots.



Poison-dart frog

Has a brightly coloured skin to warn predators that it is poisonous.



Peccary

These pig-like creatures form groups to fend off enemies.

Guanaco

The wild ancestor of the llama is adapted to high-altitude life.



Armadillo

The only mammal to have body armour, the armadillo rolls itself into a ball when threatened.



Andean condor

With a wingspan of more than 3 m (10 ft), this bird can glide for vast distances.



Patagonian mara

This rodent rears its young in communal burrows on the grassland.

Southern right whale

Following years of exploitation by whalers, numbers are steadily increasing.



Toucan

This bird rests its beak on its back while sleeping.

Capybara

Riverbanks and wetland areas are home to this giant rodent.



Red-bellied piranha

A shoal of these fish can strip its prey to bare bones in minutes.



Golden lion tamarin

This elegant monkey has a beautiful mane and lives in large family groups.

Giant anteater

Huge front claws and a long snout help the anteater to raid termite nests.

Geoffroy's cat

This tiny feline is an excellent climber and preys on birds.



Darwin's rhea

When threatened, this flightless bird flees in a zigzag pattern.



Southern sea lion

Squid and octopus form much of this agile hunter's diet.



Magellanic penguin

Only 65 cm (26 in) tall, this penguin hunts small fish.



The brightly coloured macaw is the largest of all the parrots. It eats a varied diet of fruit, nuts, and seeds.

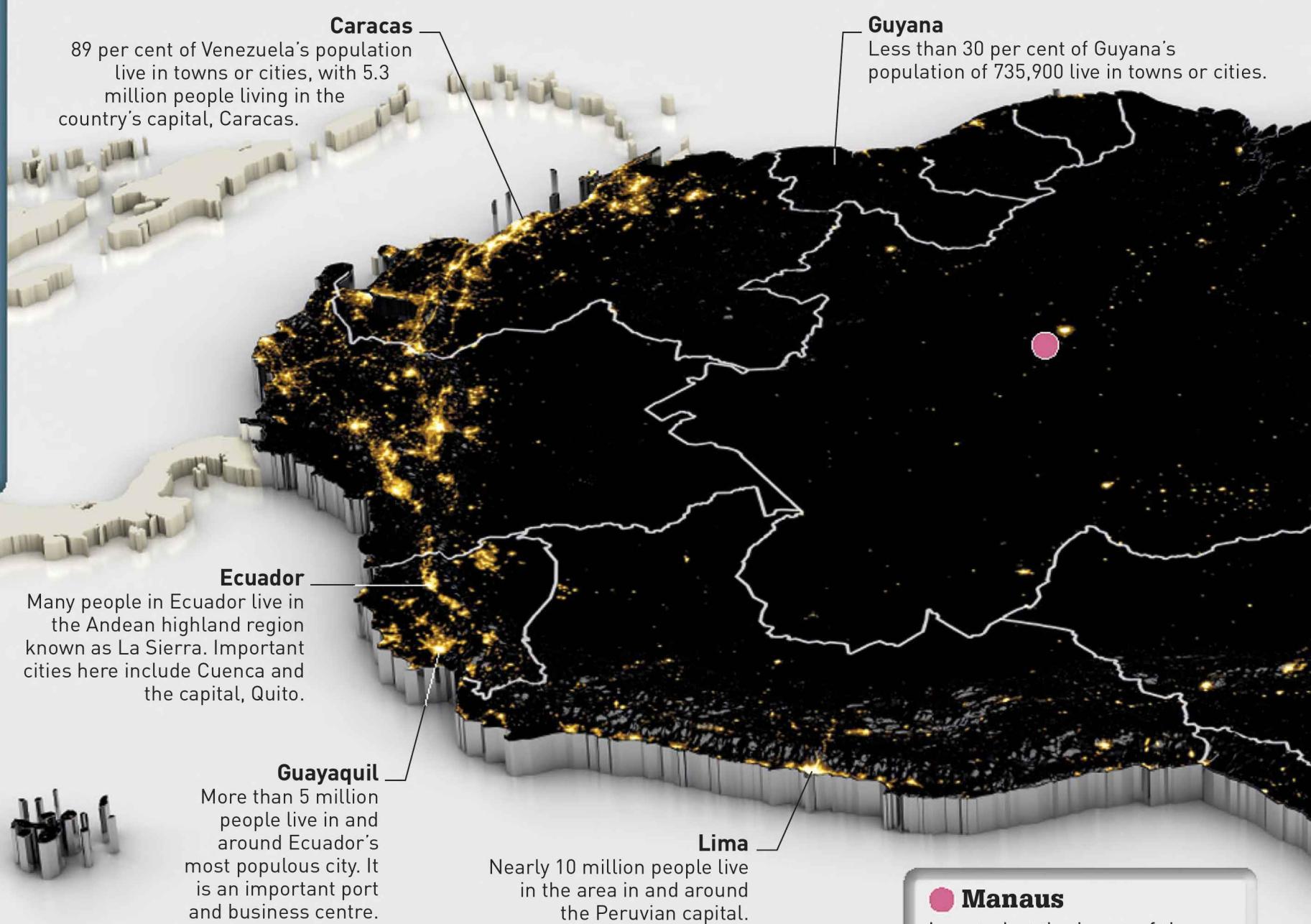
Humpback whale

These ocean giants sing in order to attract a mate.



Amazonian wildlife

The Amazon rainforest is home to an incredible range of wildlife. Around 130 species of monkey, 400 species of frog, 500 species of reptile, and at least 1,500 different species of bird live in the world's largest rainforest.



Almost **one half** of South America's population lives **in Brazil**.

By night

The brightly lit urban areas of Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela dominate the northwest of the continent. The cities of southeast Brazil, meanwhile, contrast sharply with the dark expanses of Amazonia, in which only occasional dots of light mark the rainforest's few settlements.

Manaus

Located at the heart of the Amazon rainforest, Manaus, with a population of 2 million, is the largest city in Amazonia. This lively port made its wealth in the 19th century through the rubber trade.



The opera house in Manaus is one of the grandest buildings in Amazonia.





AFRICA



Africa from space

The Equator splits Africa between the northern and southern hemispheres. It is bordered by the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.





Countries and borders

Africa's different kingdoms were brutally split up between European nations in the 19th century. After World War Two, struggle for independence, as well as civil wars, created new nations, re-drawn borders, and disputed territories.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:
30,335,000 sq km
(11,712,409 sq miles)

Total population:
1.1 billion

Number of countries: 54

Largest country:
Algeria – 2,381,741 sq km
(919,595 sq miles)

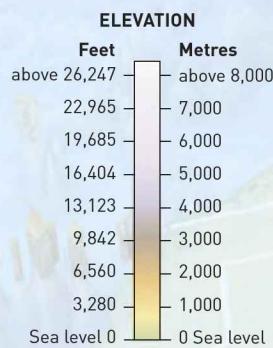
Smallest country:
Seychelles –
455 sq km (176 sq miles)

Largest country population:
Nigeria – 186 million



KEY

The colours on the map represent the height of the land in relation to sea level.



EUROPE



Landscape

Africa has many extreme landscapes. Deserts spread across the north and south, while rainforests dominate the continent's tropical central and western parts. The land rises towards the east, culminating in the Ethiopian Highlands and the Great Rift Valley region, home to Africa's largest lakes and mountains.



FAST FACTS

1 **Highest point:**
Kilimanjaro – 5,895 m (19,341 ft)

2 **Longest river:**
Nile – 6,695 km (4,160 miles)

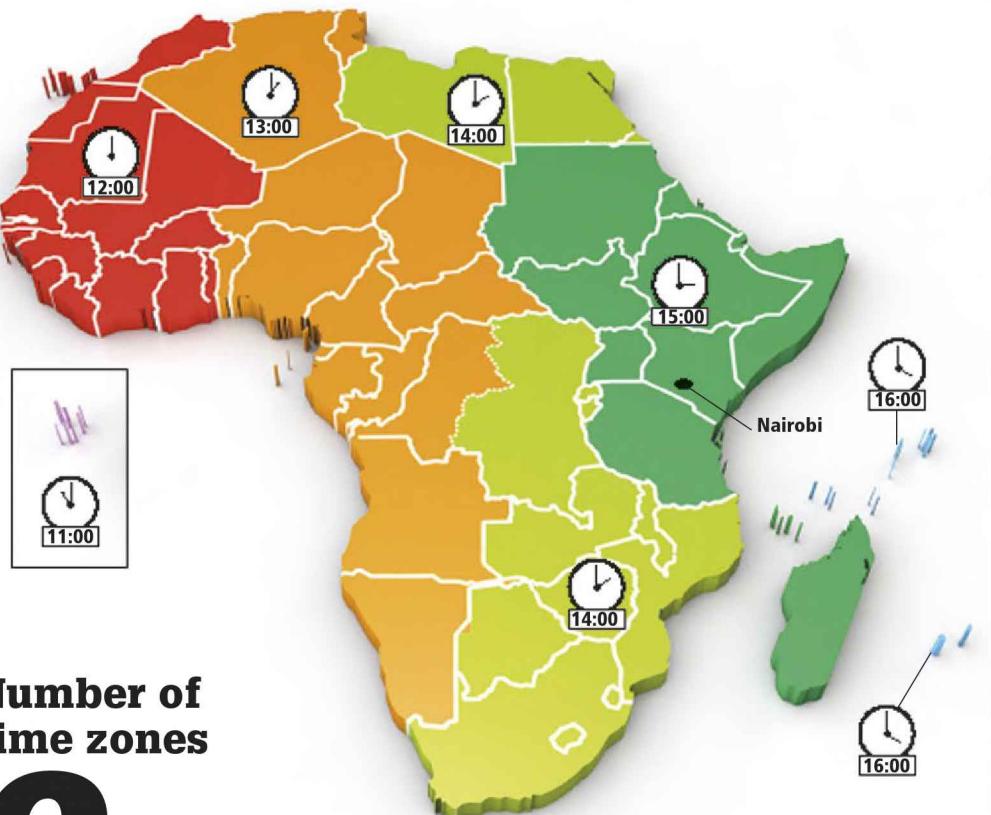
3 **Largest lake:**
Lake Victoria – 69,484 sq km (26,828 sq miles)

4 **Largest island:**
Madagascar – 594,000 sq km (229,345 sq miles)



WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST TROPICAL RAINFOREST AFTER THE AMAZON.

Fascinating facts



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 15:00 in Nairobi, Kenya (3 hours ahead of UCT).

COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Tanzania (8)

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia

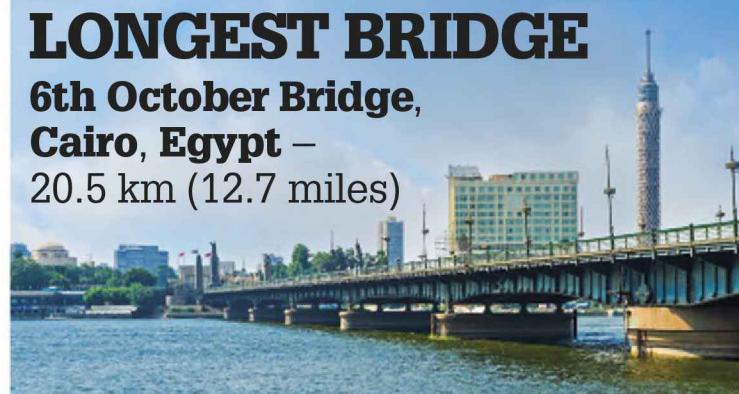


Zambia (8)

Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe

LONGEST BRIDGE

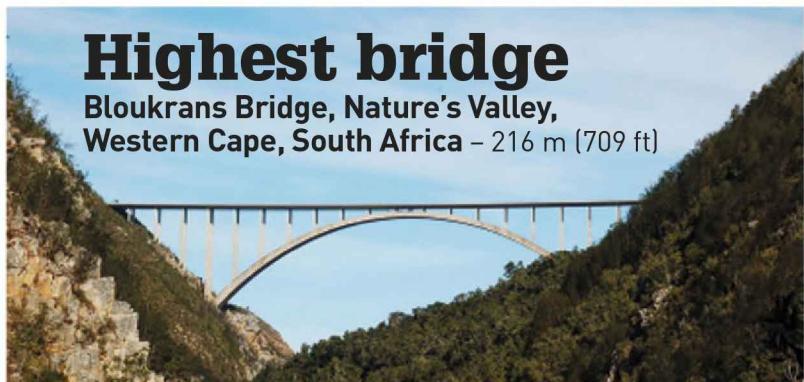
6th October Bridge, Cairo, Egypt – 20.5 km (12.7 miles)



16

LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

Botswana • Burkina Faso • Burundi • Central African Republic • Chad • Ethiopia • Lesotho • Malawi • Mali • Niger • Rwanda • South Sudan • Swaziland • Uganda • Zambia • Zimbabwe



Highest bridge

Bloukrans Bridge, Nature's Valley, Western Cape, South Africa – 216 m (709 ft)

Number of languages spoken

more than **2,000**

LAKES

Largest: **Lake Victoria**,
Uganda / Tanzania / Kenya –
69,484 sq km (26,828 sq miles)

Deepest: **Lake Tanganyika**,
Burundi / Democratic Republic of Congo /
Tanzania / Zambia – 1,470 m (4,823 ft) deep



WATERFALLS

Highest: **Tugela Falls**,
South Africa –
948 m (3,110 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe / Zaire –
1,088 m³ (38,422 ft³)
of water per second

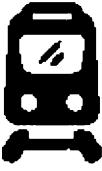


LONGEST COASTLINE

 Madagascar – 4,828 km (3,000 miles)

Busiest airport O.R. Tambo International, Johannesburg, South Africa – **19.164 million passengers per year**

Longest railway line

 The Blue Train,
Pretoria–Cape Town,
South Africa –
1,600 km (994 miles)



Longest metro system

Cairo Metro, Egypt –
78 km (48 miles)

Most visited cities

Johannesburg, S. Africa
3.6 million

Cairo, Egypt
1.5 million

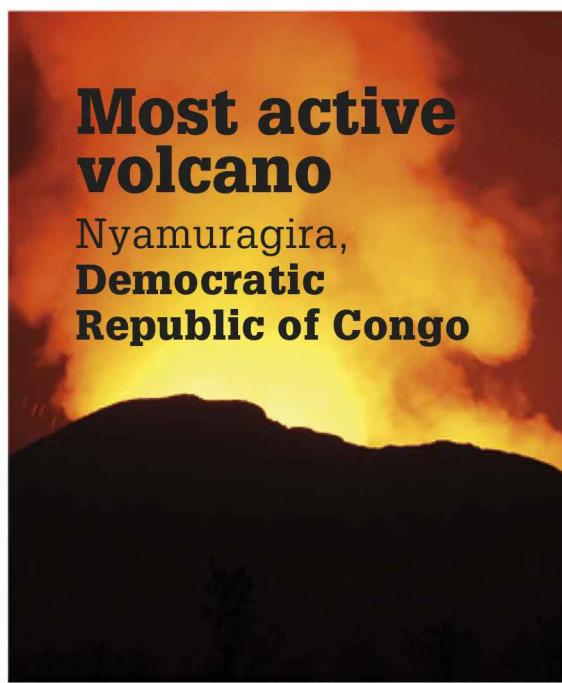
Cape Town, S. Africa
1.4 million

Casablanca, Morocco
1.1 million

Durban, S. Africa
0.8 million

Most active volcano

Nyamuragira,
**Democratic
Republic of Congo**



LOWEST POINT

Lake 'Assal, Djibouti –
156 m (512 ft) below sea level

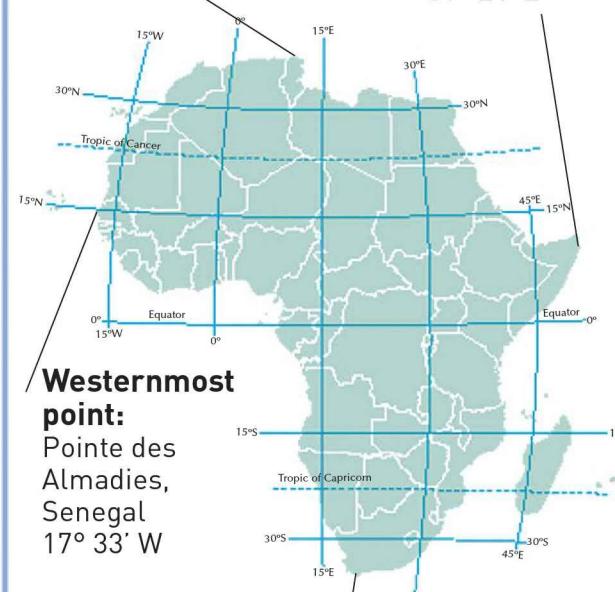
AFRICA'S EXTREME POINTS

Northernmost point:

Jalta, Tunisia
37° 31' N

Easternmost point:

Raas Xaafuun,
Somalia
51° 24' E

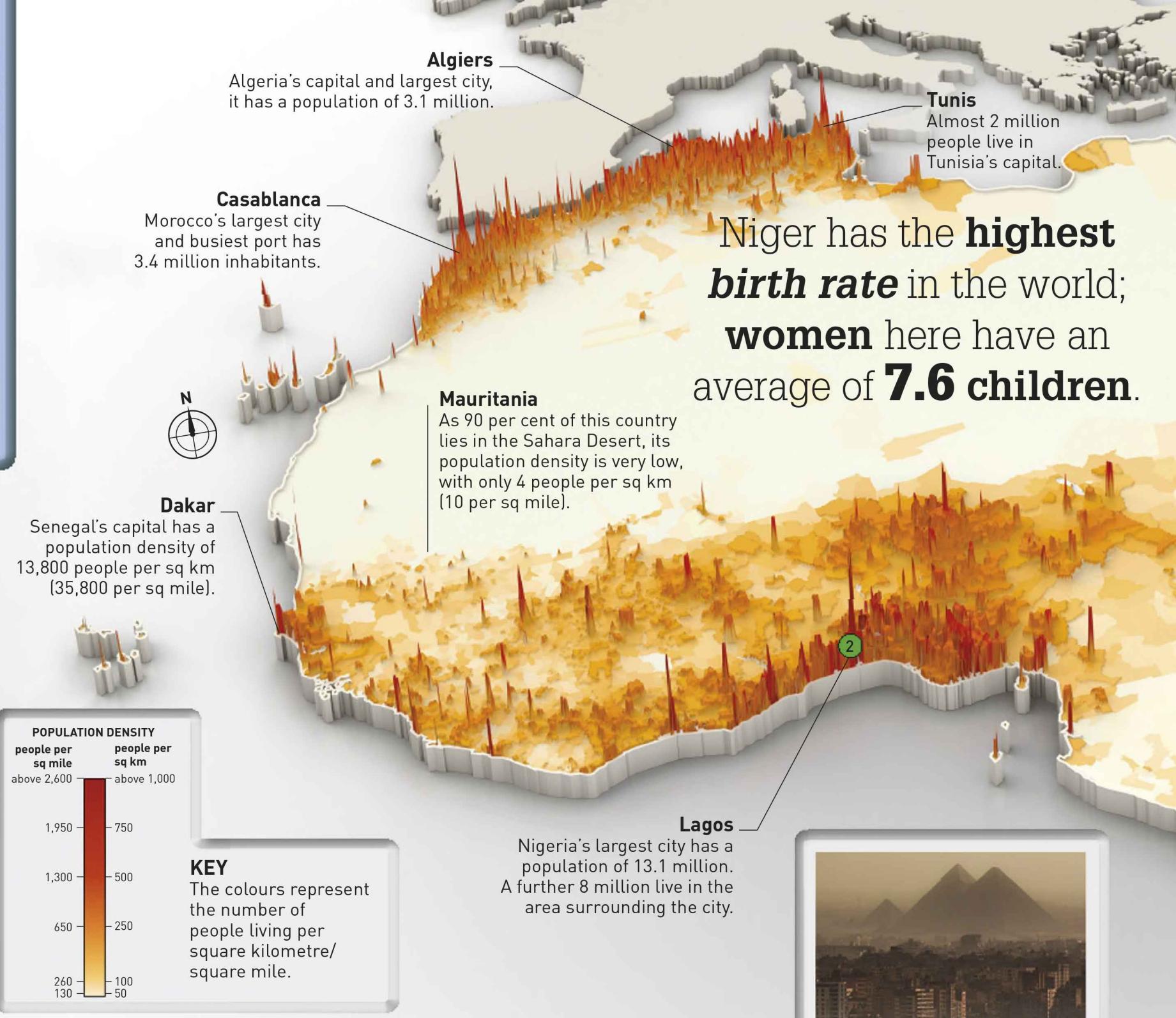


Westernmost point:

Pointe des
Almadies,
Senegal
17° 33' W

Southernmost point:

Cape Agulhas, South Africa
34° 52' S



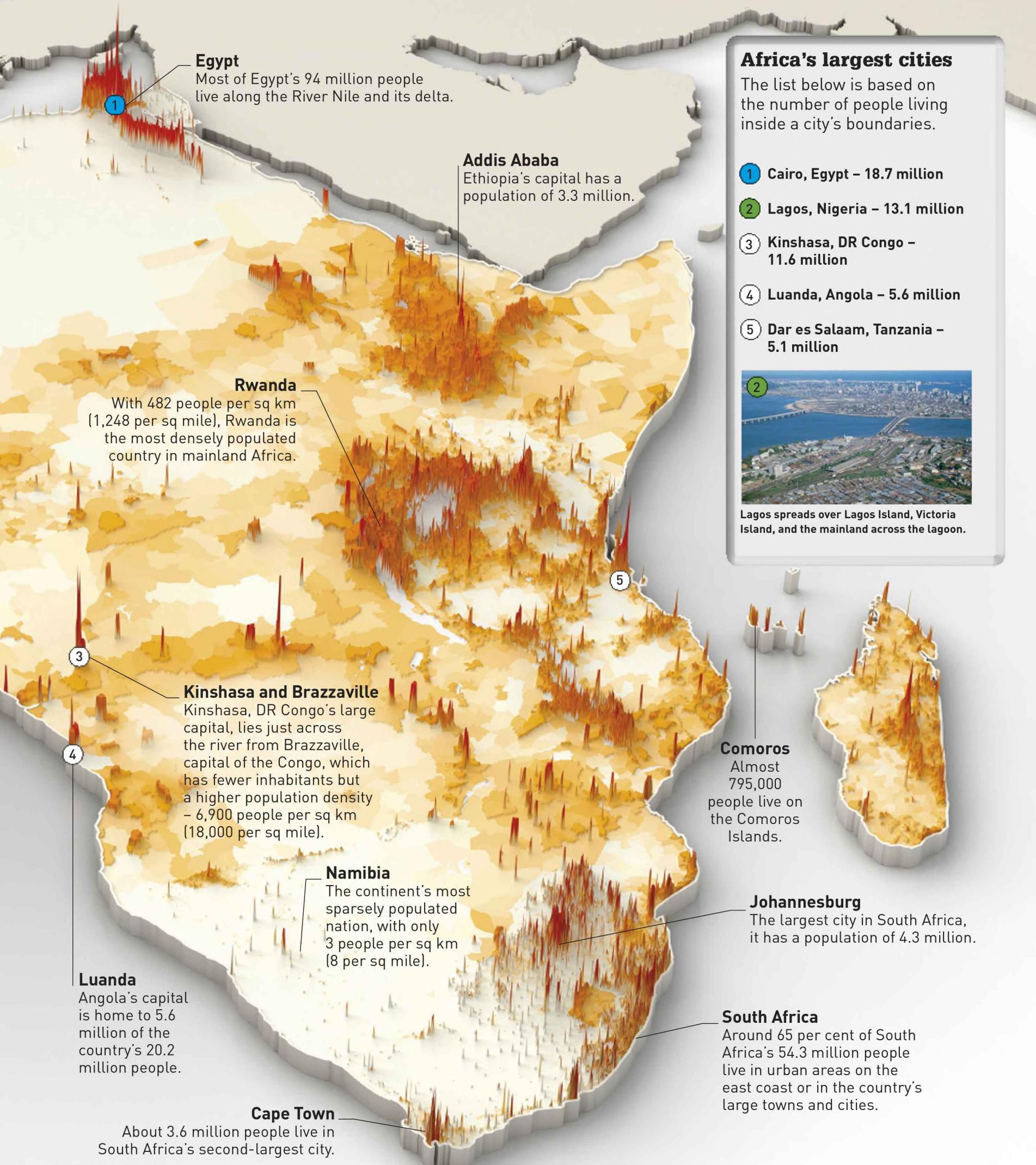
Population

Africa, the birthplace of our earliest human ancestors, is the second-most populous continent in the world (after Asia). But because the continent is so large, its average population density is low – only half that of Europe. In reality, some regions are very crowded, while others, like the Sahara, are almost deserted.



1 Cairo, Egypt

Founded in ancient times and Egypt's capital since 1168, Cairo is Africa's largest city, with 18.7 million inhabitants. Greater Cairo sprawls in all directions, and includes the famous pyramids at Giza.





Rwenzori Mountains

The snow-capped peaks of this range in the Western Rift Valley include Mount Stanley, Africa's third highest mountain at 5,109 m (16,762 ft).

Red Sea

Formed when the African and Arabian plates split apart, and still widening, this salty sea can reach over 30°C (86°F). Its coral reefs are teeming with fish.



Ethiopian Highlands

ETHIOPIA
Ahmar Mountains
Mēga Escarpment

SOUTH SUDAN

Victoria Nile

Lake Turkana

Cherangany Hills

Lake Albert

Lake Victoria

Ukerewe Island

Rubondo Island

Lake Edward

Lake Victoria

Africa's largest lake lies on the plateau located between the Great Rift Valley's eastern and western branch. At its widest, it measures 337 km (209 miles) across.

Lake Kivu

RWANDA

BURUNDI

Western Rift Valley

The western branch of the Great Rift Valley is characterized by deep lakes and high mountain ranges.

G r e a t R i f t V a l l e y

Lake Tanganyika

Lake Tanganyika

The longest of the Rift Valley's many lakes, Tanganyika is, at 1,436 m (4,710 ft) deep, also the world's second deepest (after Lake Baikal).



The Great Rift Valley

Afar Triangle

This extremely hot, low-lying, molten-rock desert is where the rifts between the Arabian, African, and Somalian plates meet.



Kirinyaga

At 5,199 m (17,057 ft), this is Africa's second-highest peak.

KENYA

Serengeti Plain

Ngorogoro Crater
The Ngorogoro is an old volcanic crater, home to wildebeests, zebras, rhinos, and lions.

Ngorogoro Crater

Lake Eyasi

Gombe

TANZANIA

Shama

Kilimanjaro
Africa's highest mountain reaches 5,895 m (19,341 ft).

Lake Rukwa

ZAMBIA

Lake Nyasa
Southernmost of the Rift Valley's lakes, Nyasa contains around 1,000 types of cichlid, a small, colourful fish.

Horn of Africa

The Great Rift Valley is a growing rift between three of Earth's plates.



This split, causing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and a changing landscape, began around 25 million years ago. It runs for approximately 6,000 km (3,700 miles) from the Middle East to Mozambique, but its most famous section is found in northeast Africa.



Lake Natron

Like most of the Eastern Rift Valley lakes, the shallow water of Lake Natron is very salty and full of algae – making it a perfect breeding spot for flamingos.

Livingstone Mountains

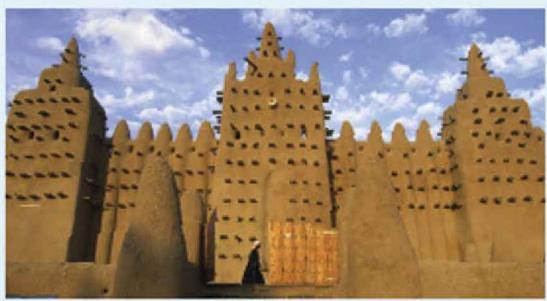


Famous landmarks

Africa boasts breathtaking natural beauty and ancient archaeological wonders. It is home to the rich wildlife of the Serengeti and the thunderous waters of Victoria Falls. And towering minarets, ancient pyramids, and monumental mud-brick architecture reflect the continent's rich cultural history.

Great Mosque, Djenné

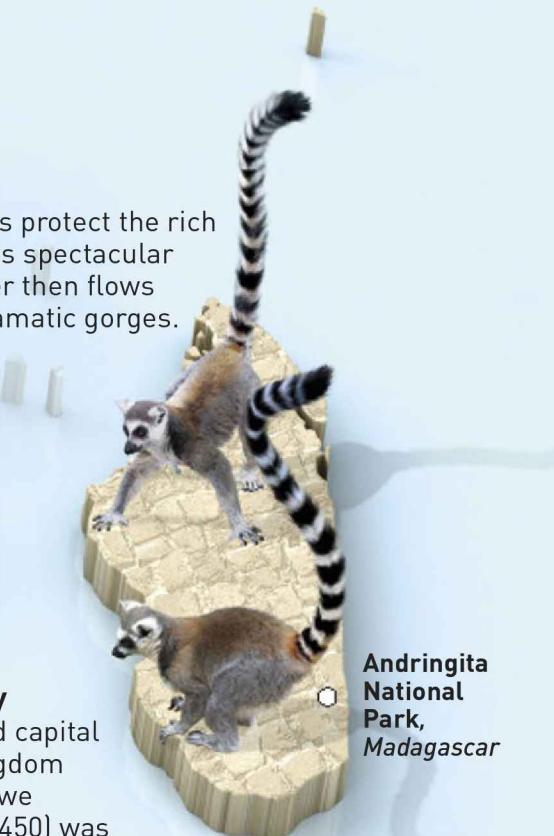
Djenné was one of the great cities of the rich Mali Empire, one of Africa's medieval kingdoms, and its mosque was a famous centre of learning. Built of sun-baked bricks made of sand and earth, it was reconstructed in 1907.





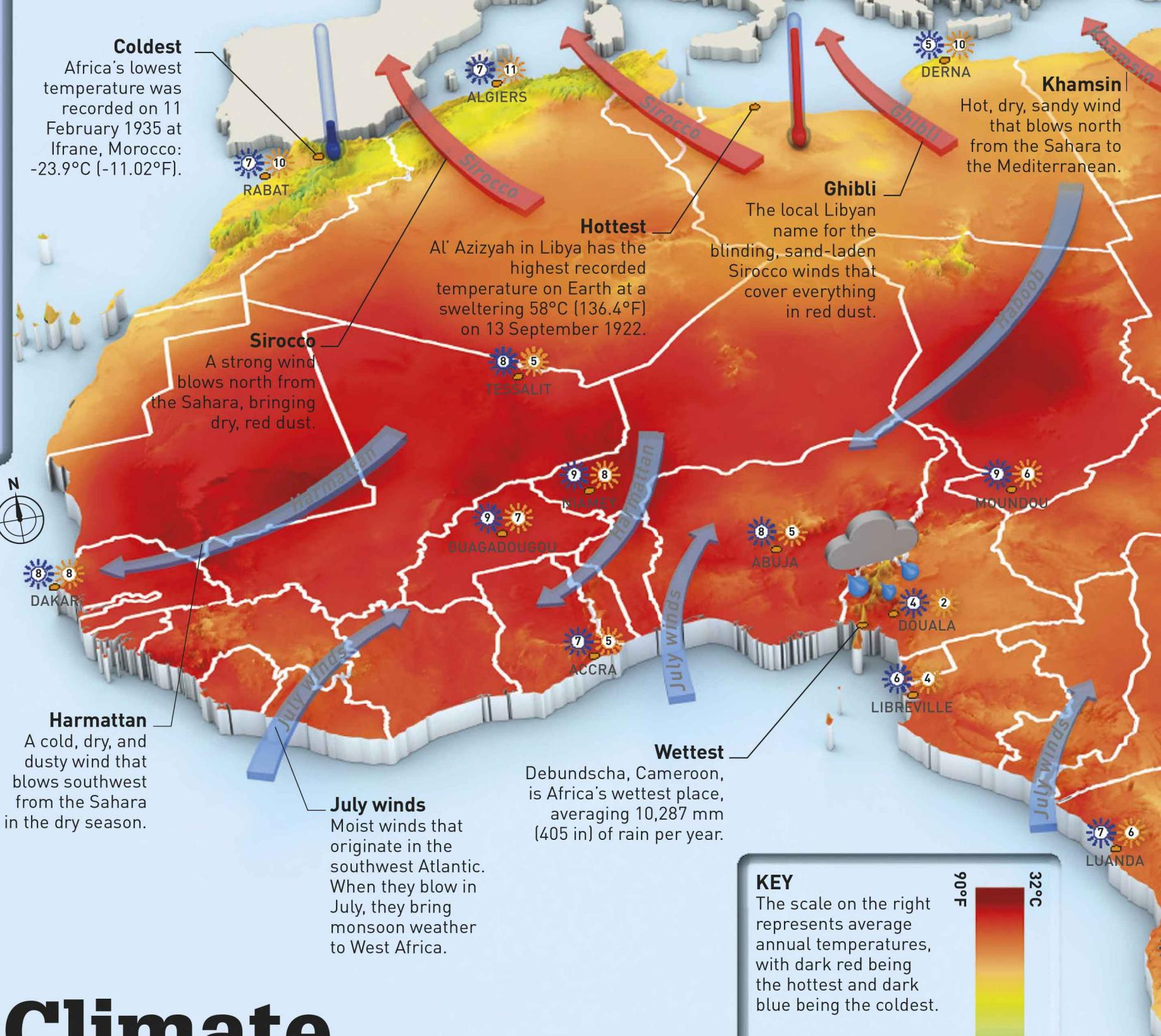
● Table Mountain

Cape Town's much-photographed, flat-topped mountain is a part of a large national park, in which over 2,000 species of plant grow. A cable car takes visitors up to the top of the plateau, and it is popular for hiking, caving, and rock-climbing.



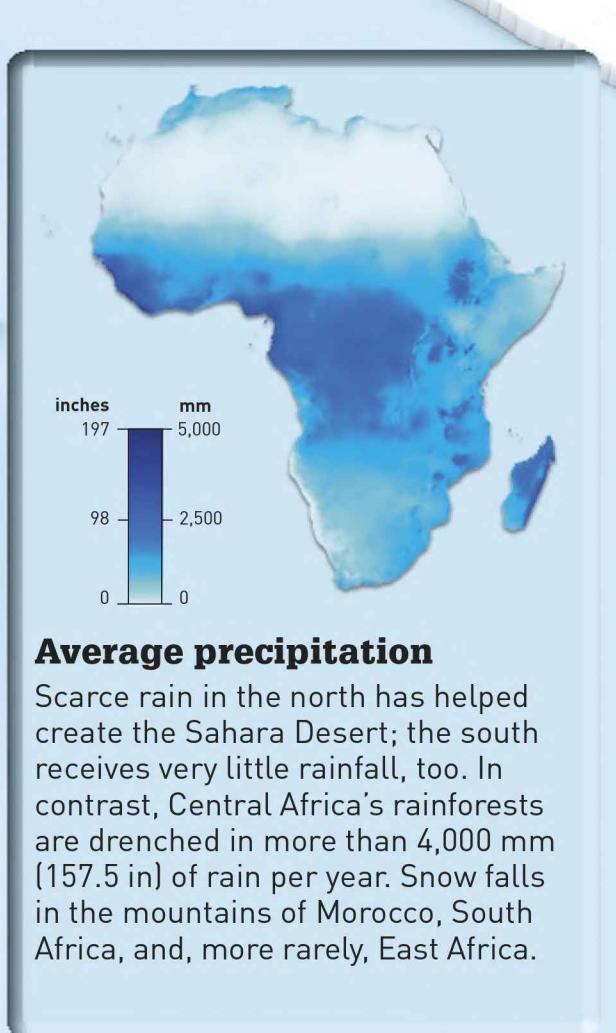
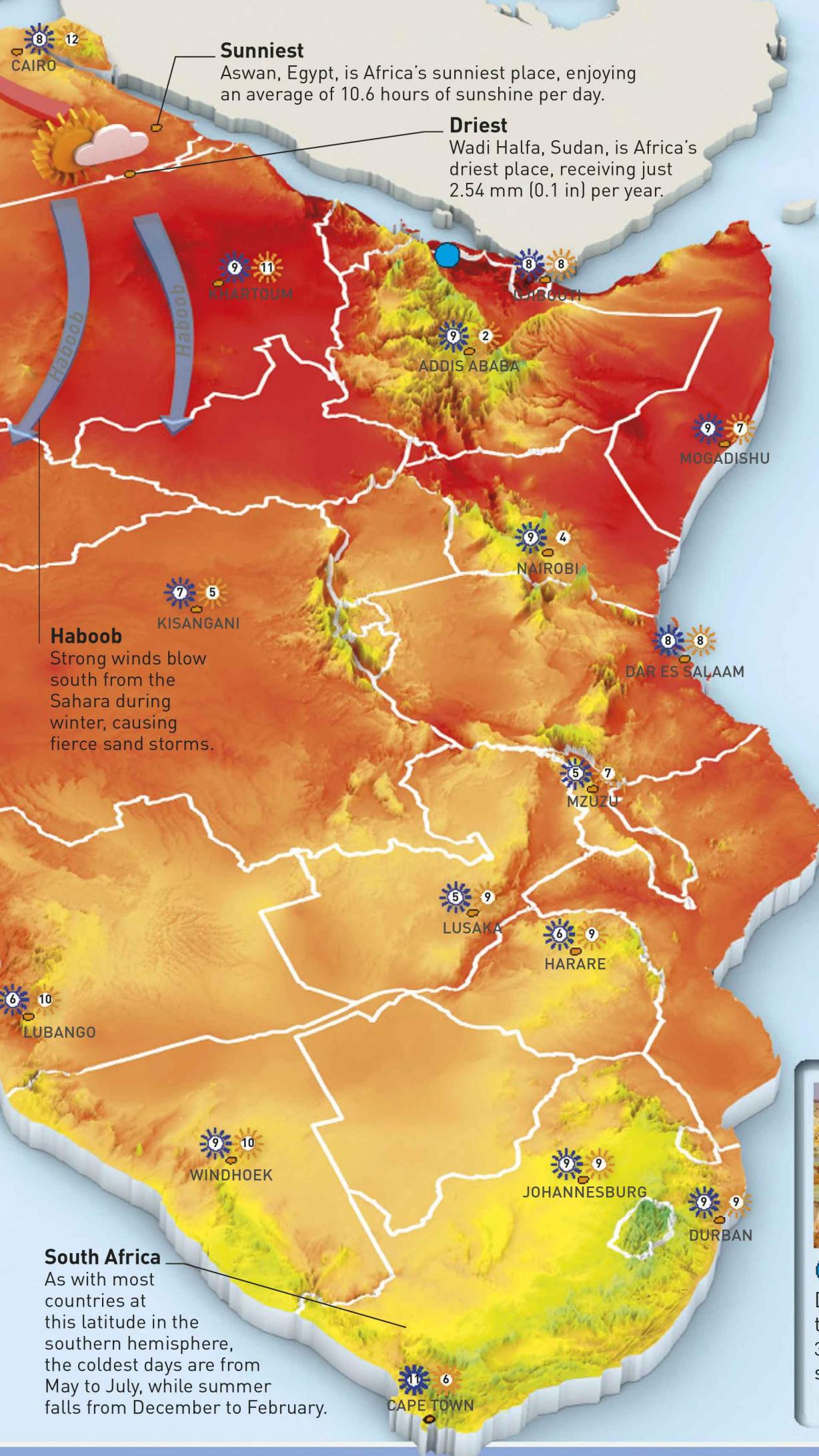
**Egypt is Africa's
most visited country,
with 9.5 million
visitors in 2013.**

LONG, UP TO 27 KM (16.7 MILES) WIDE, AND 550 M (1,084 FT) DEEP.



Climate

Africa is the world's hottest continent, and dry lands and deserts make up more than half of its terrain. Central Africa sits on either side of the Equator and has a hot, humid climate. The southern parts of Africa are cooler, due to their distance from the Equator and high, mountainous areas.



Dromedary camel

The Arabian camel has a single hump, which stores fat that the body converts into energy and water.

Deathstalker scorpion

This venomous arachnid feeds at night and lives in cool, shady burrows.

Nile crocodile

An aggressive reptile that surprise-attacks from submerged hiding places.

African rock python

Non-venomous but highly aggressive, this is one of the largest snake species, growing up to 7 m (23 ft) in length.

Ruppell's vulture

Has a powerful, hooked bill for ripping flesh and crushing bone from animal carcasses.

Spotted hyena

Can see in the dark and lives, hunts, and scavenges in female-led groups.

**Chimpanzee**

Lives in a community and eats mainly fruit and leaves.

**African bush elephant**

The largest land animal, this elephant lives in grasslands, tropical forests, and semi-deserts.

Lemon shark

This shark favours warm, shallow waters, and uses sensors (called electroreceptors) to detect hidden prey on the ocean floor.

Hippopotamus

This grass-eater is a fast runner, and spends much of its day in the water to cool off.

**Whale shark**

The largest fish in the world, this shark grows up to 20 m (65.6 ft) and feeds on tiny organisms, such as plankton and krill.



Wildlife

No safari of Africa is complete without seeing the big five – elephant, lion, buffalo, rhino, and leopard – but the African continent is also home to an incredible variety of other animals. Many of these are exclusive to their region, such as the lemur, which can only be found in Madagascar.

BIOMES

Africa is dominated by tropical and sub-tropical grasslands, jungles of tropical broadleaf forest, and dry desert regions.

Mediterranean
Tropical broadleaf forest
Tropical dry broadleaf forest
Tropical/sub-tropical grassland
Mountain
Desert
Flooded grassland
Mangrove



Mass migration

The Serengeti, in East Africa, hosts the world's largest annual migration. More than a million wildebeest move along a circular route on the plain searching for food.

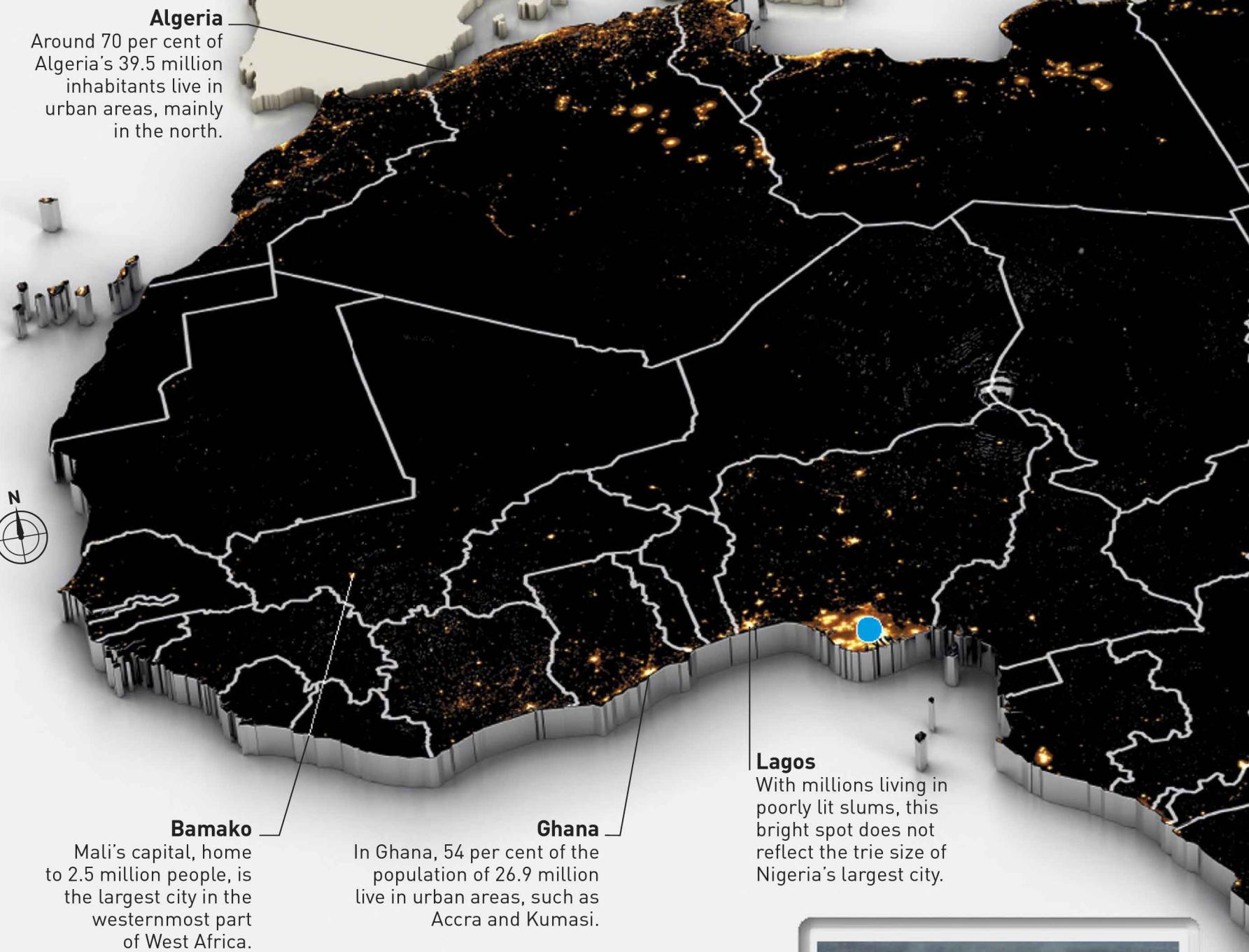


Aye aye
One of around 50 species of lemur in Madagascar, it uses its long, thin middle finger to scrape out grubs from trees.

Tiger shark
A savage scavenger of immense bulk that eats anything it can find in the ocean.

Great white shark
This shark is a fierce predator that surprises prey by attacking it from below.

THESE EXIST NOWHERE ELSE ON EARTH AND MANY ARE ENDANGERED.



By night

The speed at which cities grow in population is very high in Africa. But here, not all densely populated places show up at night – poorer areas do not have street lights, lit-up shop windows, or even electric indoor lights. Most dark areas, however, are desert, jungle, or savannah.



Niger Delta oil fields

Much of the strong glow in Nigeria's Niger Delta comes from the many oil fields, with their open gas flares, big refineries, and busy ports.



Night in the wild

Only the moon illuminates Africa's great wildernesses at night, be it the Sahara and Kalahari deserts, the jungles of central Africa, or the vast grasslands of the Serengeti in Tanzania.



Giraffes on the plains of the Serengeti, Tanzania, at night.



EUROPE



Europe from space

The European continent lies in the northern hemisphere and has an eastern land border with Asia. The distinctive "boot" of Italy is clearly visible in this image.

Countries and borders

The borders of European countries have changed many times over history, as conquering armies advanced and defeated ones retreated. In the 20th century, two world wars shook the continent, and conflict and political change continue to shape the continent's borders.



ATLANTIC OCEAN

FAST FACTS

Total land area:

10,498,000 sq km
(4,053,300 sq miles)

Total population:

743 million

Number of countries:

46

Largest country:

Russian Federation (European section) – 3,955,818 sq km (1,527,350 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Vatican City – 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq miles)

Largest country population:

Russian Federation (European section) – 110 million



Approximately **25 per cent** of the Russian Federation lies **within Europe**; the rest is in Asia.



Landscape

Despite its small size, the continent of Europe has an incredibly diverse landscape. To the northwest, east, and south, it is enclosed by mountains. In between, lies the North European Plain, which stretches 4,000 km (2,485 miles) from eastern England to the Ural Mountains in Russia.





THAN ANY OTHER CONTINENT OR SUBCONTINENT.

Fascinating facts

Landlocked countries – 14

Andorra • Austria • Belarus • Czech Republic • Hungary • Liechtenstein • Luxembourg • Macedonia • Moldova • San Marino • Serbia • Slovakia • Switzerland • Vatican City

Number of languages

39

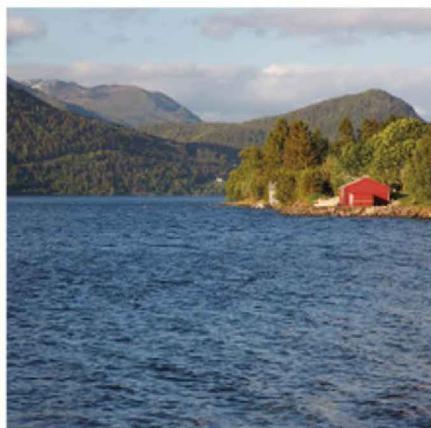
There are 39 official European languages and many more regional languages and dialects.



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 14:00 in Helsinki, Finland (2 hours ahead of UCT).

Deepest lake

Hornindalsvatnet, Norway – **514 m (1,686 ft)**



Fastest train

Europe's fastest train is the **Frecciarossa 1000** in **Italy**, which can reach speeds of up to **400 km/h (249 mph)**

Tallest buildings



Federation Tower
Moscow, Russia
373.7 m (1,222 ft)



OKO: South Tower
Moscow, Russia
354.1 m (1,162 ft)



Mercury City Tower
Moscow, Russia
338.8 m (1,112 ft)



The Shard
London, United Kingdom
309.6 m (1,016 ft)



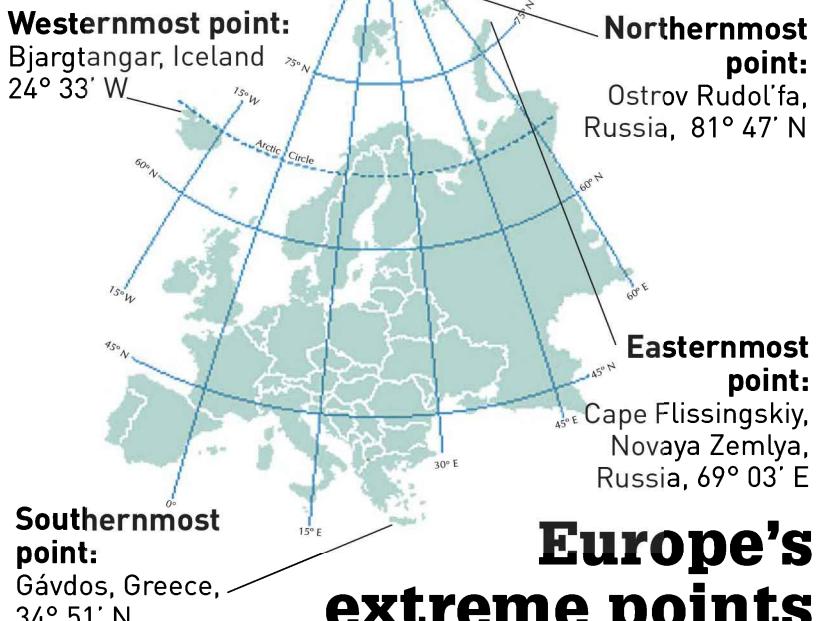
Eurasia
Moscow, Russia
308.9 m (1,013 ft)



WATERFALLS

● Highest:
Vinnufossen, Norway
– 860 m (2,821 ft)

Largest (by volume):
Dettifoss, Iceland –
200 m³ (7,063 ft³) of water
per second
The falls are 100 m (328 ft) wide



Europe's extreme points

Busiest airport Heathrow Airport, London, UK: **74,985 million passengers per year**

Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel
Gotthard Base Tunnel,
Switzerland –
57.09 km (35.5 miles)



Metro line
Serpukhovsko line,
Moscow, Russia –
41.5 km (25.8 miles)



Road tunnel
Laerdal, Norway
– 24.53 km
(15.2 miles)

Longest bridge

Vasco da Gama,
Lisbon, Portugal

17.185 km (10.68 miles)

Biggest glacier

Severny Island ice cap –
northern island of the Novaya
Zemlya archipelago in Russia
– **20,500 sq km (7,915 sq miles)**

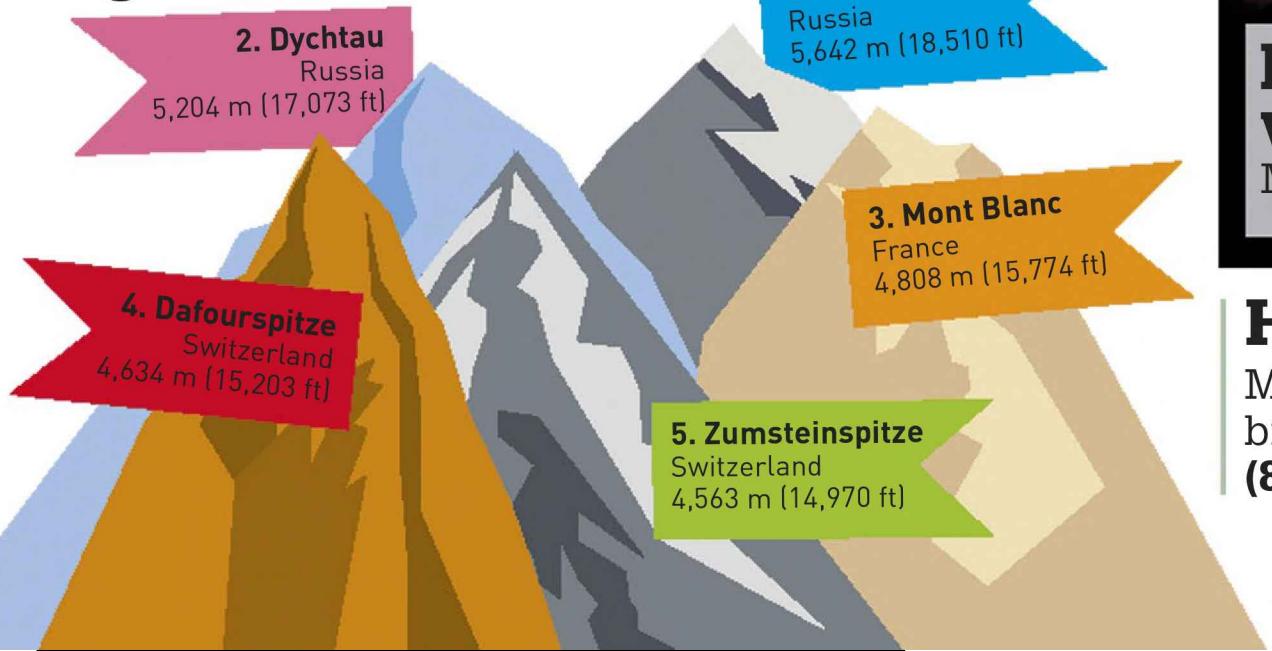
Longest coastline



Most active volcano

Mount Etna, Italy

Highest mountains



Highest bridge

Millau Viaduct, France –
bridge deck is **270 m**
(886 ft) above the ground

Population

Europe is the world's second-most densely populated continent (after Asia), with an average of 73 people per sq km (188 per sq mile). The majority of Europe's population live in the northern half of the continent.



Iceland

This island of volcanoes and icy wilderness has the lowest population density in Europe – 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile).

Europe's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- 1 **Istanbul, Turkey** – 14.7 million
- 2 **Moscow, Russia** – 12.3 million
- 3 **London, United Kingdom** – 8.7 million
- 4 **St Petersburg, Russia** – 5.2 million
- 5 **Berlin, Germany** – 3.6 million
- 6 **Madrid, Spain** – 3.1 million
- 7 **Kiev, Ukraine** – 2.9 million
- 8 **Rome, Italy** – 2.87 million
- 9 **Paris, France** – 2.2 million
- 10 **Minsk, Belarus** – 1.9 million



The Eiffel Tower dominates the skyline of Paris, France's most populous city.

Murmansk, Russia
The largest city north of the Arctic Circle. It has 299,000 inhabitants.



Norway

Scandinavia's most sparsely populated country, with 16 people per sq km (42 people per sq mile).

Netherlands

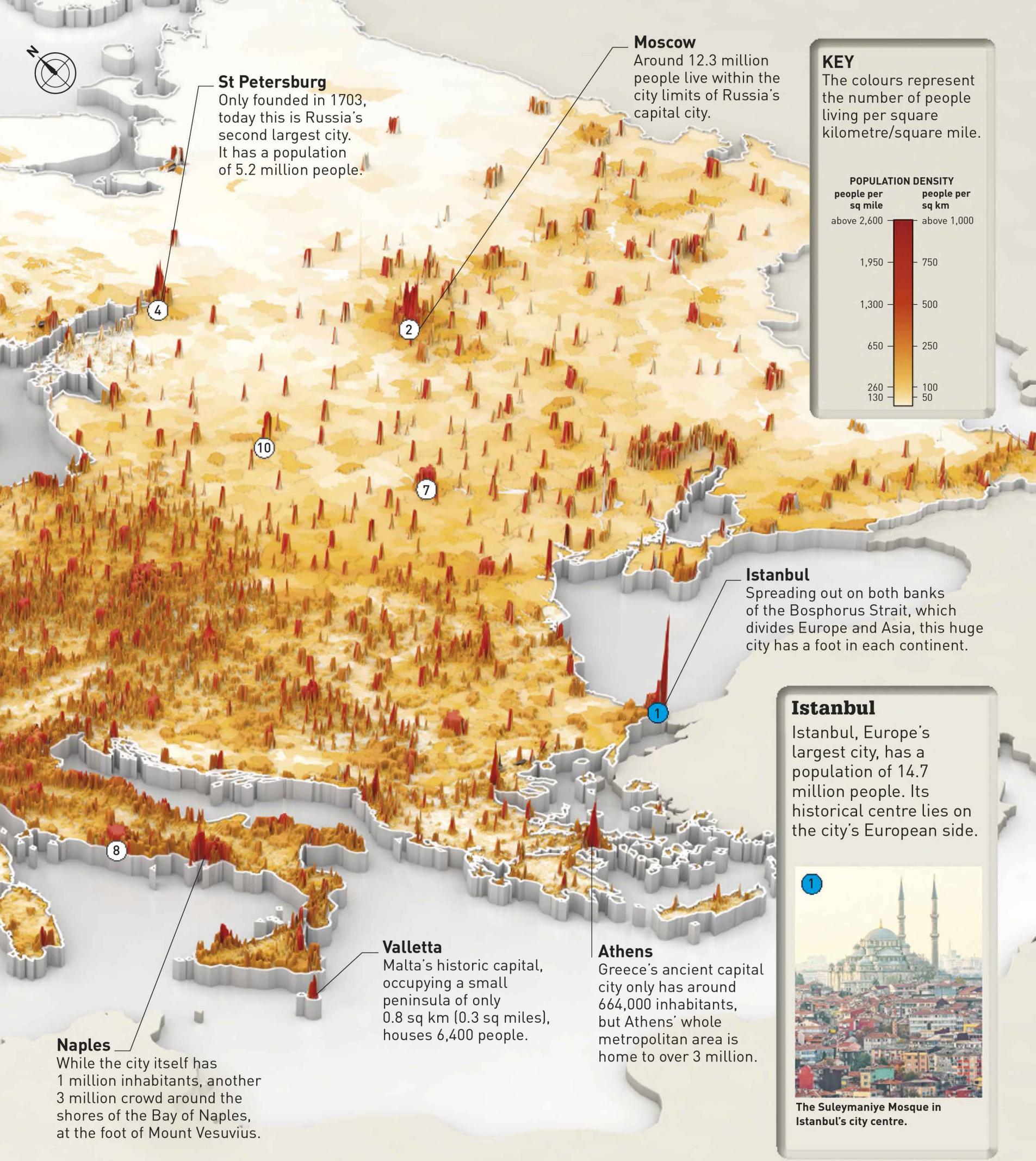
With a population of 17 million, this is one of Europe's most densely populated nations, at 409 people per sq km (1,060 per sq mile).

Madrid

Population density in Spain's capital is 5,390 people per sq km (14,000 per sq mile), almost as high as that of London.

Monaco

The small principality is the world's most densely populated nation, with 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 per sq mile).





Highest road

At 2,764 m (9,068 ft), Col de l'Iseran, France, is only accessible by car in summer. Tour de France cyclists have struggled over it several times.



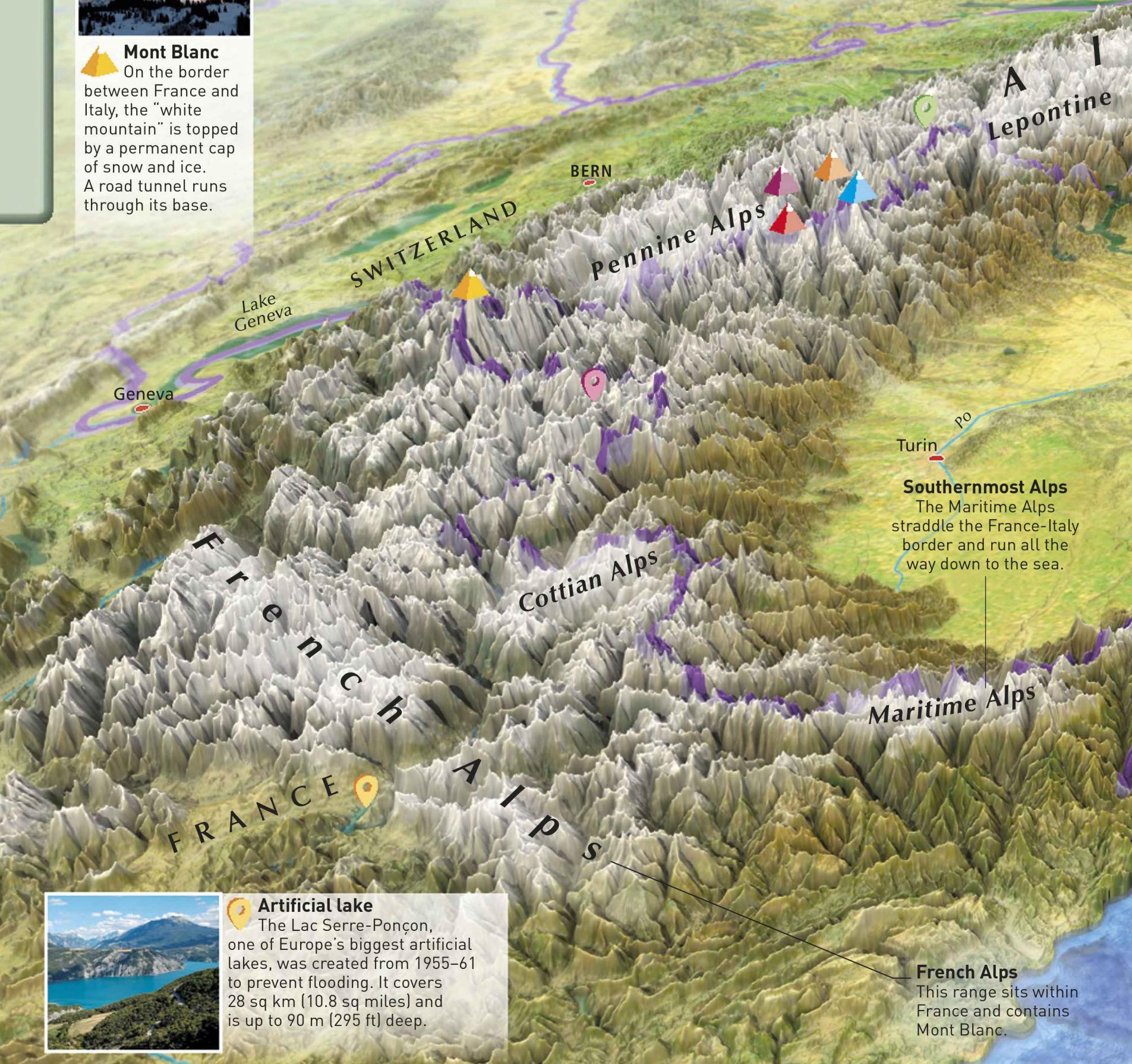
Biggest glacier

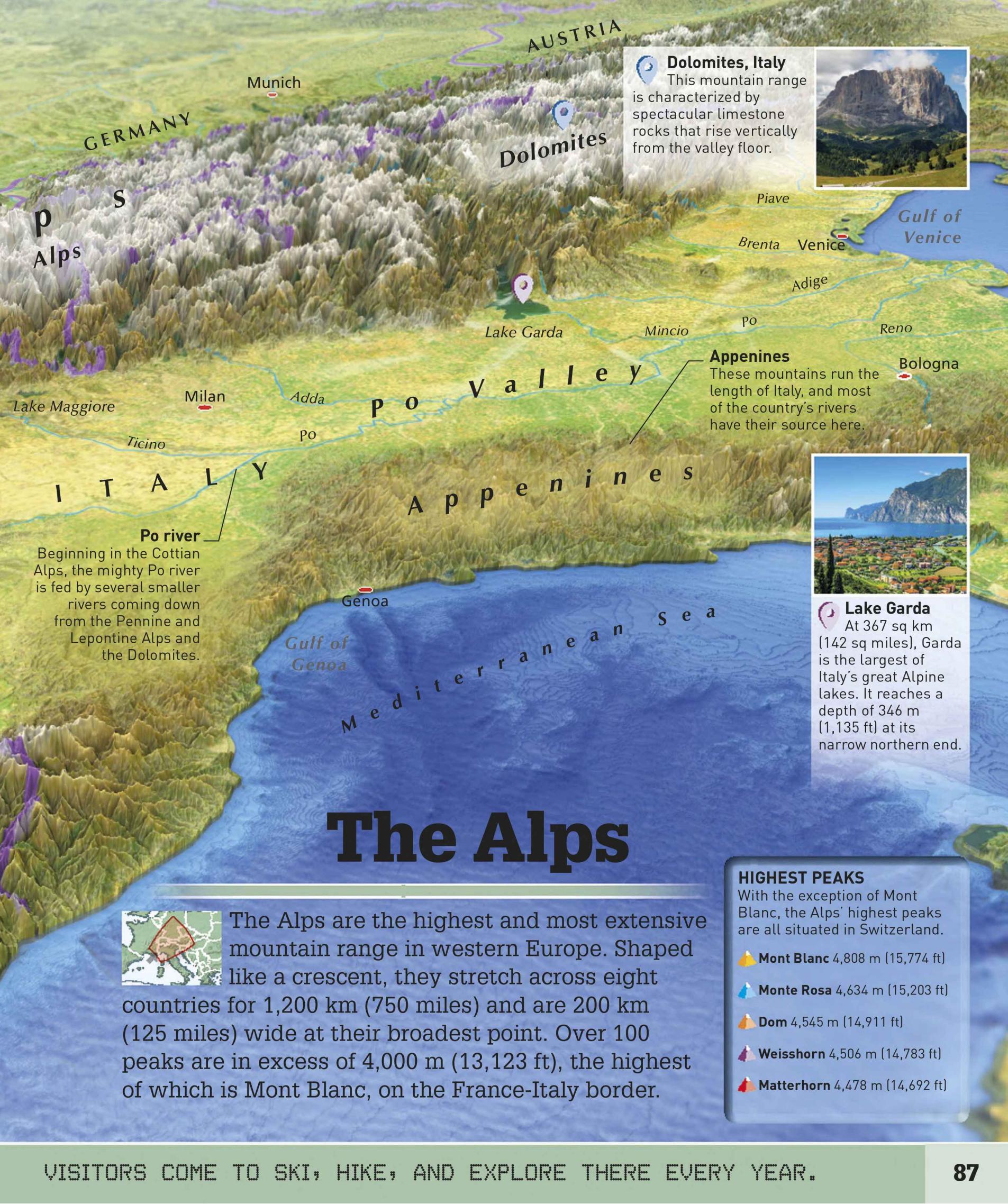
The Aletsch glacier, Switzerland, measures over 900 m (2,950 ft) at its thickest, and is 117 sq km (45 sq miles) in size, but it is melting every year.



Mont Blanc

On the border between France and Italy, the "white mountain" is topped by a permanent cap of snow and ice. A road tunnel runs through its base.





Famous landmarks

From prehistoric monuments and Roman ruins to medieval town centres, Gothic cathedrals, and Baroque palaces, Europe has a wealth of architectural treasures from across the ages. Some of its most famous landmarks are natural formations, often protected as national parks.



Thingvellir
National Park,
Iceland

United Kingdom

The 29 UNESCO heritage sites in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland include Stone Age monuments, castles, and feats of Victorian engineering.



Edinburgh
Castle,
Scotland

Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland



Brú na Bóinne,
Ireland

Landscapes

Europe has 468 national parks. Some are precious habitats or areas of natural beauty, while others contain particular geological formations.



Iceland's Thingvellir National Park lies at the meeting point between the North American and Eurasian plates.



Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland, is made of basalt columns in different formations, some like giant honeycombs.





France is the *most visited* country in the world, with over **85 million tourists per year.**

Buildings

Europe's architectural landmarks, whether in ruins, reconstructed, or in their original glory, all tell fascinating tales of the continent's history and its people.



● The historic city centre of Riga, Latvia, is a mix of fine medieval buildings and some of the world's best Art Nouveau architecture.



● Meteora, Greece, features a breathtaking group of monasteries perched on vertical cliffs. Only six of the original 24 remain today.

Climate

EUROPE

Europe's climate varies from subtropical in the south to polar in the north. Western and north-western parts have a mild, generally humid climate, while central and eastern Europe has a humid climate with cool summers.

Polar easterlies

Prevailing winds that bring dry, cold air southwards from the North Pole.

Polar easterlies

Polar

Prevailing westerlies

Blowing in a northeasterly direction, these winds bring warm air to western parts of Europe.

FAROE ISLANDS

Cloudiest

Glasgow, in the United Kingdom, is Europe's cloudiest city. It averages only 1,203 hours of sunshine a year.

GLASGOW

Prevailing westerlies

OSLO

COPENHAGEN

AMSTERDAM

LONDON

PARIS

LYON

BORDEAUX

MADRID

LISBON

BARCELONA

SEVILLE

Hottest

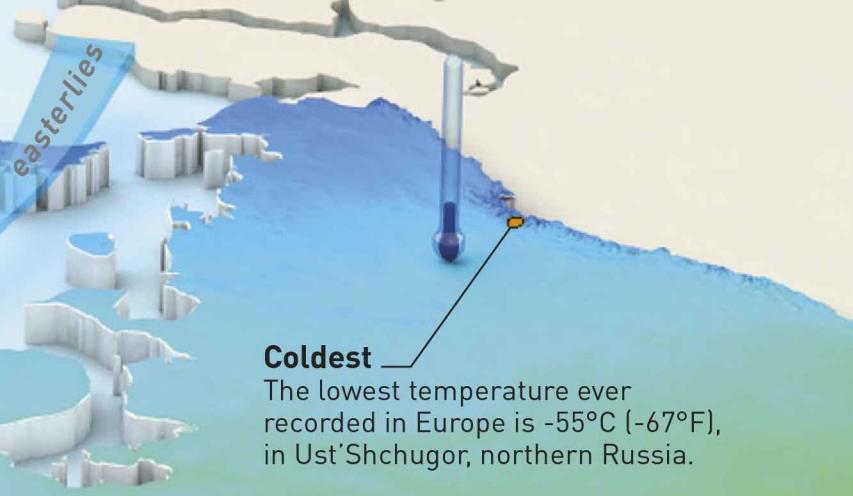
The highest temperature recorded in Europe is 50°C (122°F), in Seville, Spain, on 4 August 1881.

Mistral

A strong, cold wind that blows hardest in winter and spring.

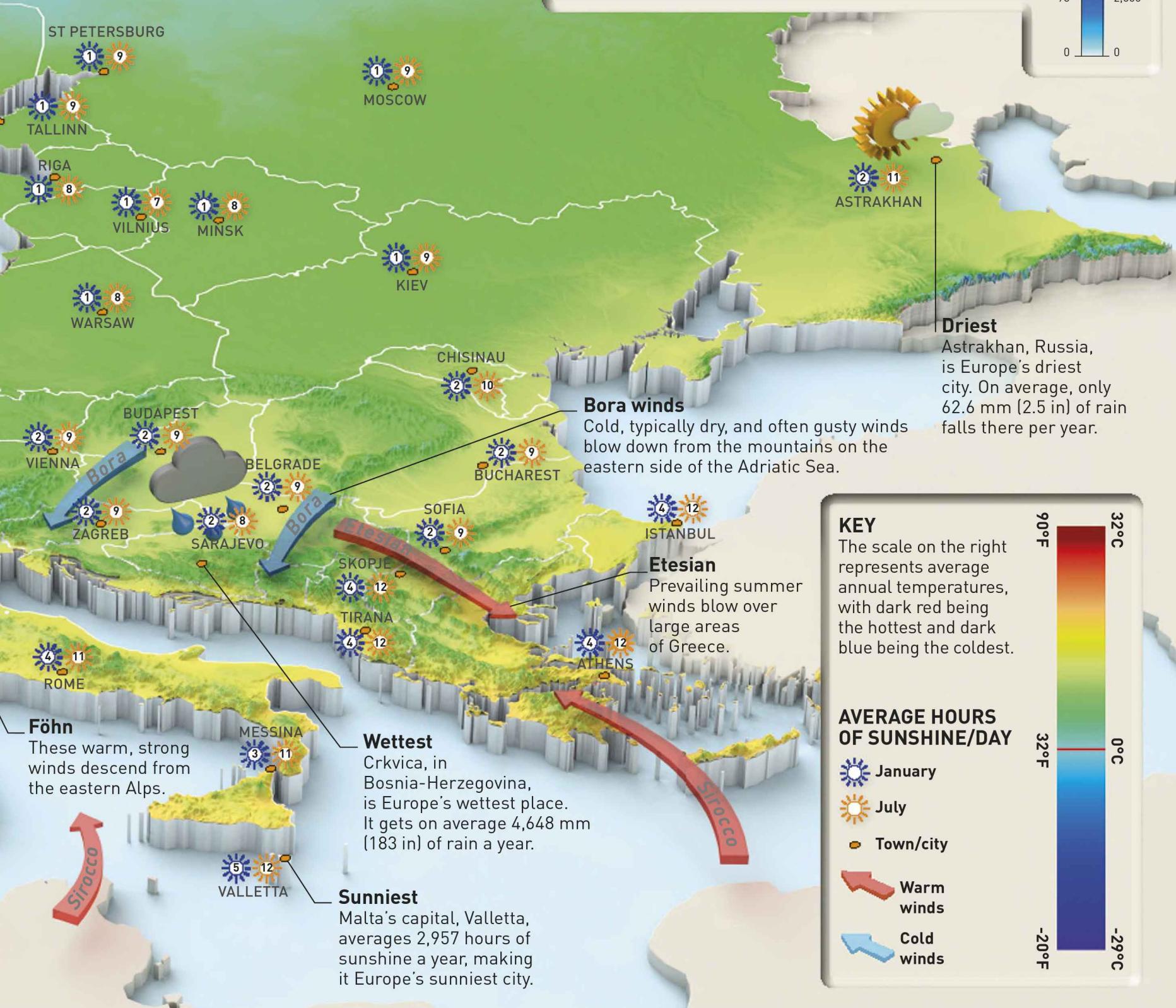
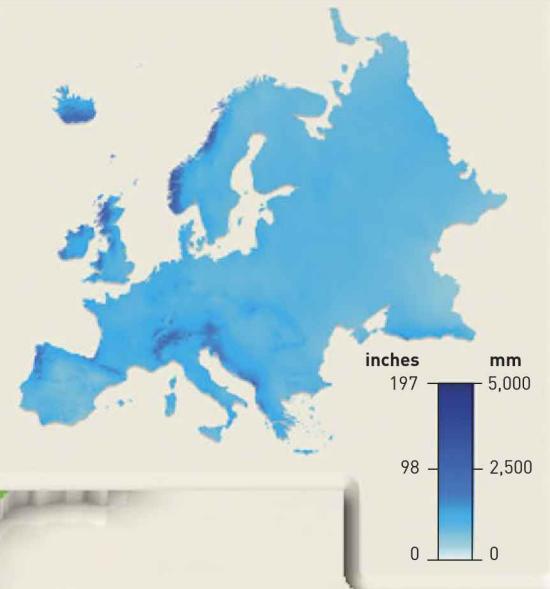
Sirocco winds

Hot air from Africa creates storms over the sea, bringing cloud, fog, and rain to northern Mediterranean locations.



Annual precipitation

This map shows the difference in the average amounts of precipitation (snow and rain) that falls across Europe in a year; the darkest blue marking the highest amounts. Westerly winds bring more rain to the western coastal regions, while the Alps get high amounts in winter, usually in the form of snow.



Wildlife

In densely populated Europe there is not much wilderness left for animals to thrive in, but nature reserves and some species' ability to adapt mean that the continent's wildlife is still surprisingly varied.





By night

This satellite image of Europe at night shows where people live. The west of the continent is densely populated; the north and east are relatively uninhabited.



Iceland

Reykjavík is almost the only bright spot, and is home to two-thirds of the country's population.

Northwest England
The triangle formed by the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham is densely populated.



Urban Monaco

The small principality of Monaco, squeezed into an area of only 2 sq km (0.78 sq miles), is all city. Every one of its 30,581 inhabitants lives in an urban environment.

Lisbon
Just over one-quarter (26.2 per cent) of Portugal's 10.8 million inhabitants live in the metropolitan area of Lisbon.

Scandinavia

The relatively small populations of the large Scandinavian countries are concentrated in the main southern coastal cities.

Mega metropolitan area

Urban areas of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany's Rhine-Ruhr form a continuous built-up zone.

London

Europe's third-largest city has a population density of 5,518 people per sq km (14,290 per sq mile).

Paris

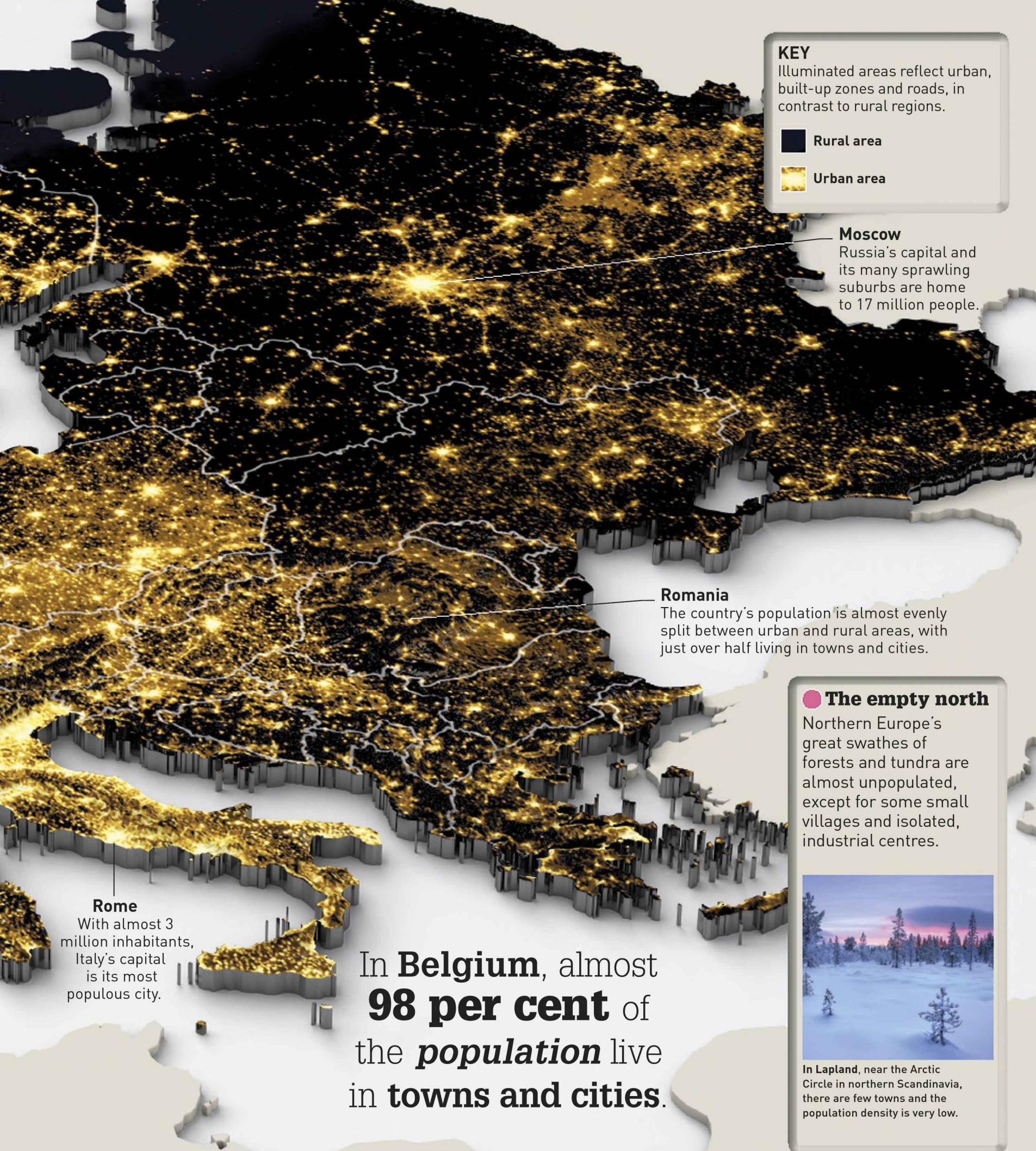
About 20 per cent of France's 62.8 million inhabitants live in the Paris metropolitan area.

Industrial hub

Milan and Turin, two of Italy's major industrial and economic centres, are home to a combined 6.57 million people.

Madrid

Madrid is Spain's largest metropolitan area and 6.3 million people live here.







ASIA



Mighty continent

Asia extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south, and from the Pacific Ocean in the east, to the Ural Mountains, the Suez Canal, the Bosphorus Strait, and the Caucasus Mountains in the west.



Countries and borders

The vast continent of Asia includes two giant nations – China and India, each with a population of more than a billion people and with rapidly growing economies. To the north is the world's biggest country by area – the Russian Federation. To the west lie the countries of the Middle East, today the centre of the Islamic world.

Indonesia
The world's largest island nation, Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands.



Landscape

Asia covers approximately 30 per cent of Earth's land area and makes up the eastern portion of the Eurasian supercontinent (with Europe lying to the west). It is made up of five different landscapes: mountain systems, plateaus, plains, steppes (large areas of unforested grassland), and deserts.

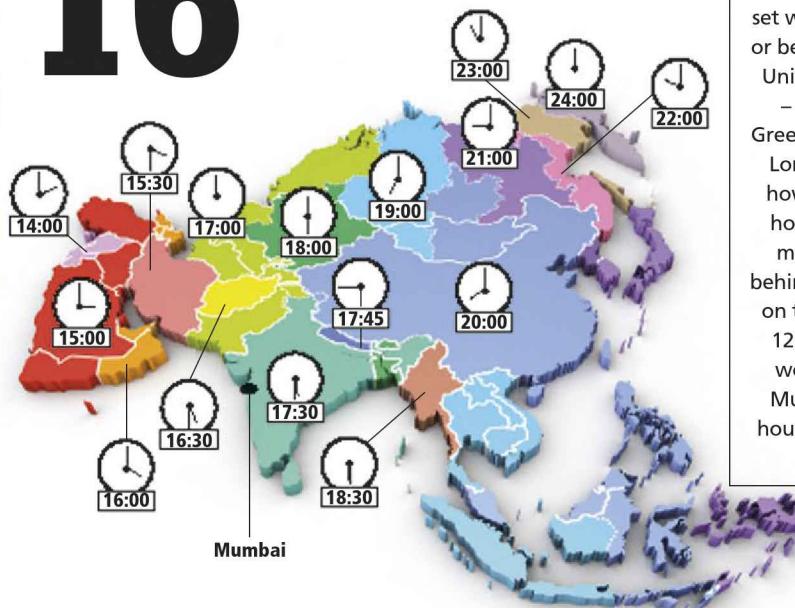
Indonesian islands
Indonesia is the most volcanic country in the world. It is home to 147 volcanoes, 76 of which are active.



Fascinating facts

Number of time zones

16



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UTC. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 17:30 in Mumbai, India (5½ hours ahead of UTC).

13

Landlocked countries

Afghanistan ■ Armenia ■
Azerbaijan ■ Belarus ■
Bhutan ■ Kazakhstan ■ Kyrgyzstan ■
Laos ■ Mongolia ■ Nepal ■ Tajikistan ■
Turkmenistan ■ Uzbekistan

Fastest train

Shanghai Maglev Train, China – **430 km/h (267.2 mph)**



Longest tunnels



Railway tunnel

Seikan Tunnel,
Tsugaru Strait, Japan
– 53.85 km (33.5 miles)



Metro line

Guangzhou Metro Line 3,
Guangzhou, China –
60.4 km (37.5 miles)



Road tunnel

Xishan Tunnel,
Shanxi, China –
13.65 km (8.5 miles)

Tallest buildings

Burj Khalifa
Dubai, UAE
828 m (2,715 ft)



Shanghai Tower
Shanghai, China
632 m (2,073 ft)

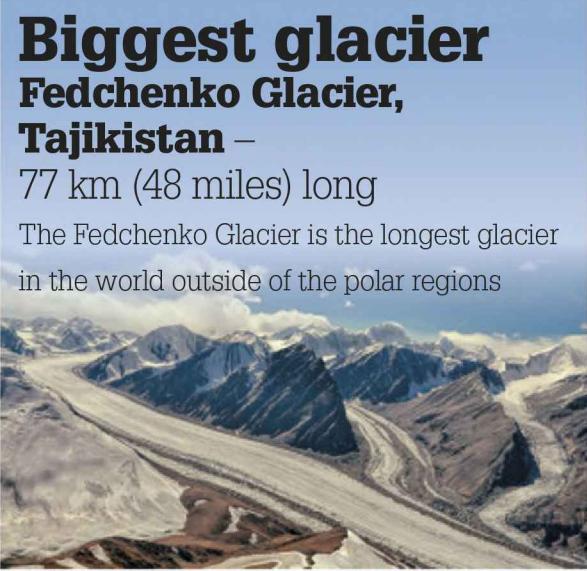


**Makkah Royal
Clock Tower**
Mecca, Saudi Arabia
601 m (1,971 ft)



Taipei 101
Taipei, Taiwan
509 m (1,670 ft)

Shanghai World Finance Centre
Shanghai, China
492 m (1,614 ft)



Biggest glacier

**Fedchenko Glacier,
Tajikistan** –

77 km (48 miles) long
The Fedchenko Glacier is the longest glacier in the world outside of the polar regions

WATERFALLS

Highest:

Hannoki Falls, Toyama, Japan – 500 m (1,640 ft)

Largest (by volume):

Chutes de Khone, Laos

– 11,610 m³ (410,000 ft³) of water per second

Deepest lake

Lake Baikal, Russian Federation – **1,642 m (5,387 ft)**

Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world

Most active volcano

Mount Merapi, Indonesia



Highest mountains

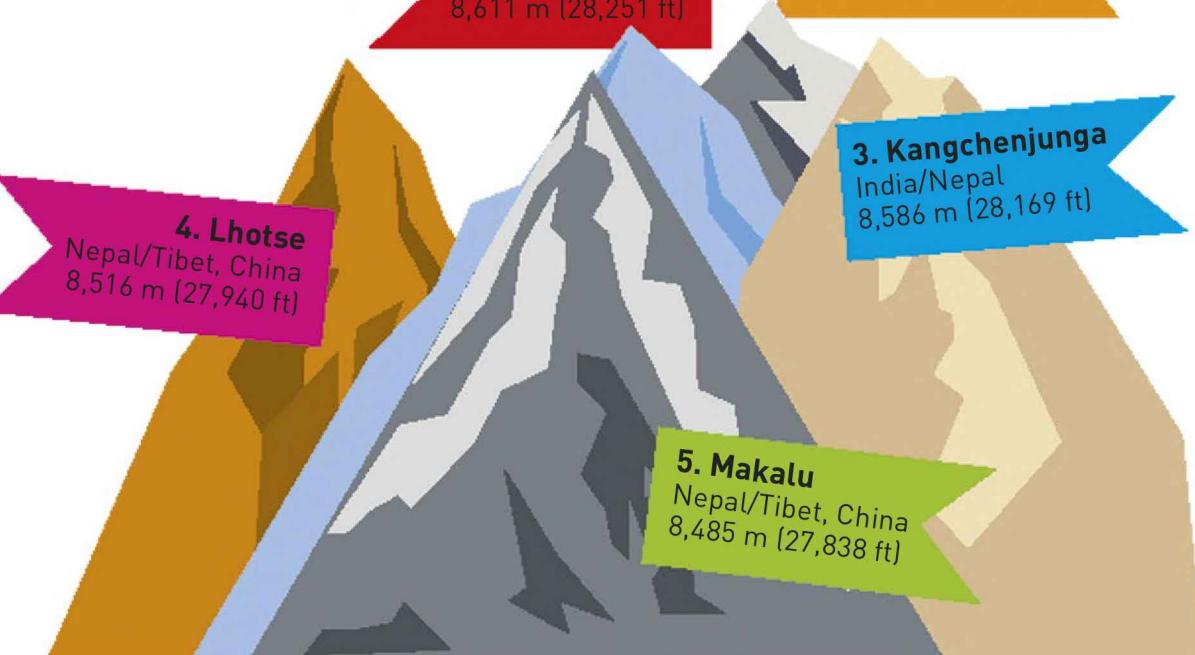
2. K2
China/Pakistan
8,611 m (28,251 ft)

1. Mount Everest
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,848 m (29,029 ft)

4. Lhotse
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,516 m (27,940 ft)

5. Makalu
Nepal/Tibet, China
8,485 m (27,838 ft)

3. Kangchenjunga
India/Nepal
8,586 m (28,169 ft)



Highest bridge

Sidu River Bridge, Yesanguan Township, Badong County, Hubei, China – **496 m (1,627 ft)**

The world's three highest bridges are all in Asia:

- Sidu River Bridge – 496 m (1,627 ft)
- Puli Bridge – 485 m (1,591 ft)
- Qingshui River Bridge – 406 m (1,332 ft)

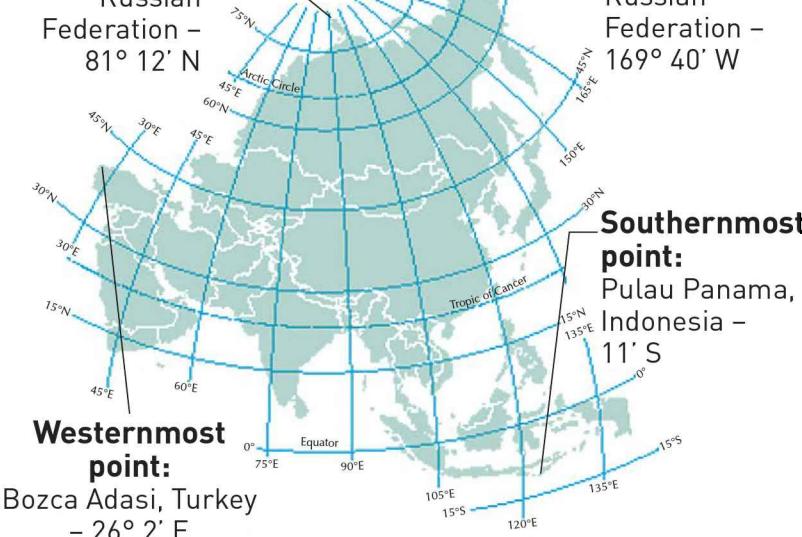
Asia's extreme points

Northernmost point:

Mys Articesku, Russian Federation – 81° 12' N

Easternmost point:

Mys Dezhneva, Russian Federation – 169° 40' W



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Bangkok, Thailand
18.24 million

Singapore
11.88 million

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
11.12 million

Seoul, South Korea
10.35 million

Hong Kong
8.66 million

Longest bridge

Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge (Beijing–Shanghai high-speed railway) – **164.8 km (102.4 miles)**

This is the longest bridge of any type in the world

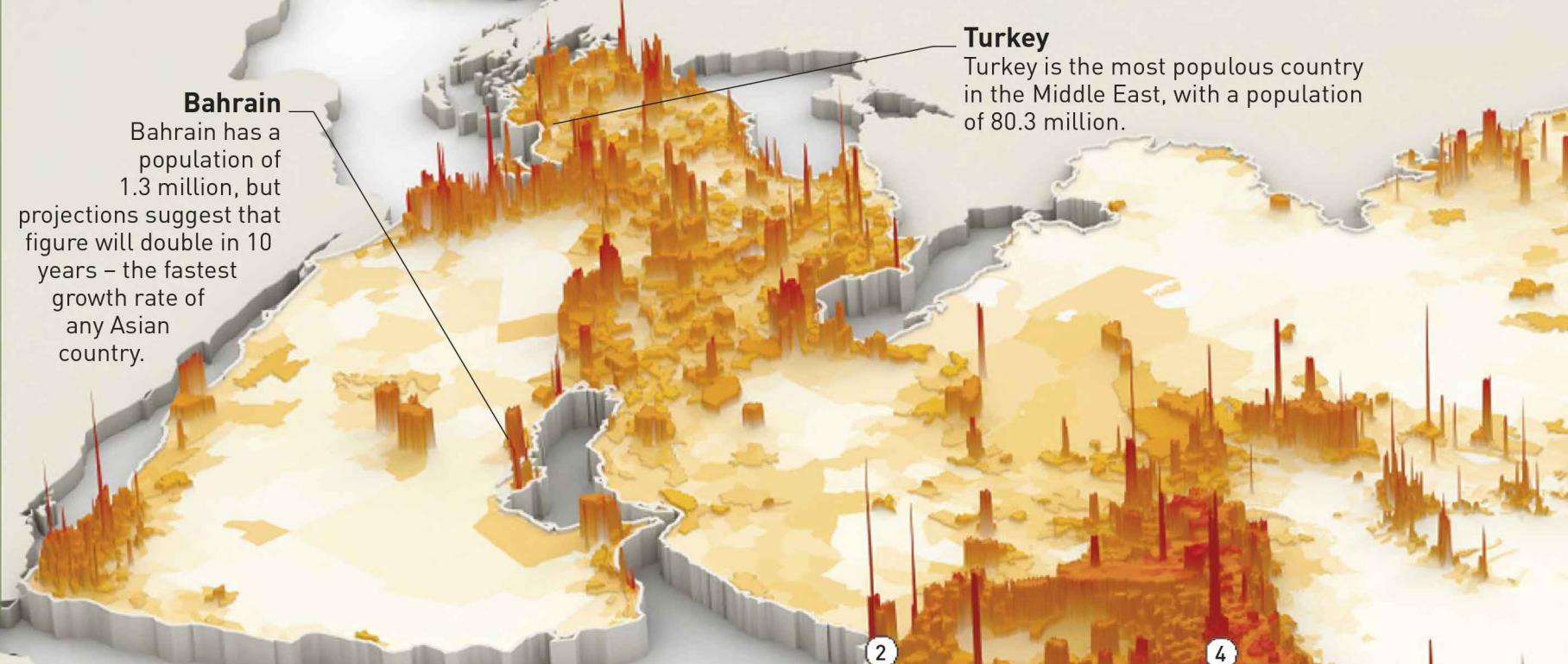


Bahrain

Bahrain has a population of 1.3 million, but projections suggest that figure will double in 10 years – the fastest growth rate of any Asian country.

Turkey

Turkey is the most populous country in the Middle East, with a population of 80.3 million.

**Asia's largest cities**

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

① Shanghai, China – 24.3 million	⑧ Mumbai, India – 12.4 million
② Karachi, Pakistan – 23.5 million	⑨ Shenzhen, China – 10.5 million
③ Beijing, China – 21.5 million	⑩ Jakarta, Indonesia – 10.1 million
④ Delhi, India – 16.4 million	⑥  The bright lights and busy streets of Tokyo – Japan's largest city.
⑤ Tianjin, China – 15.2 million	
⑥ Tokyo, Japan – 13.5 million	
⑦ Guangzhou, China – 13.1 million	

② ④ ⑧

④

**India**

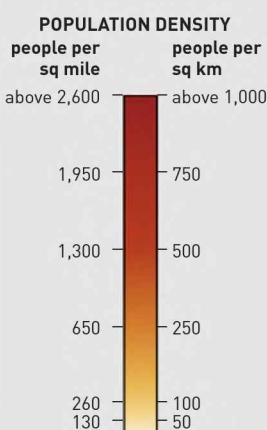
India has the world's second-largest population (1.27 billion), but is expected to be the world's most-populous country by 2028.

Bangladesh

Of all the countries in the world with a population of over 100 million, Bangladesh has the highest population density – 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 per sq mile).

KEY

The colours represent the number of people living per square kilometre/square mile.

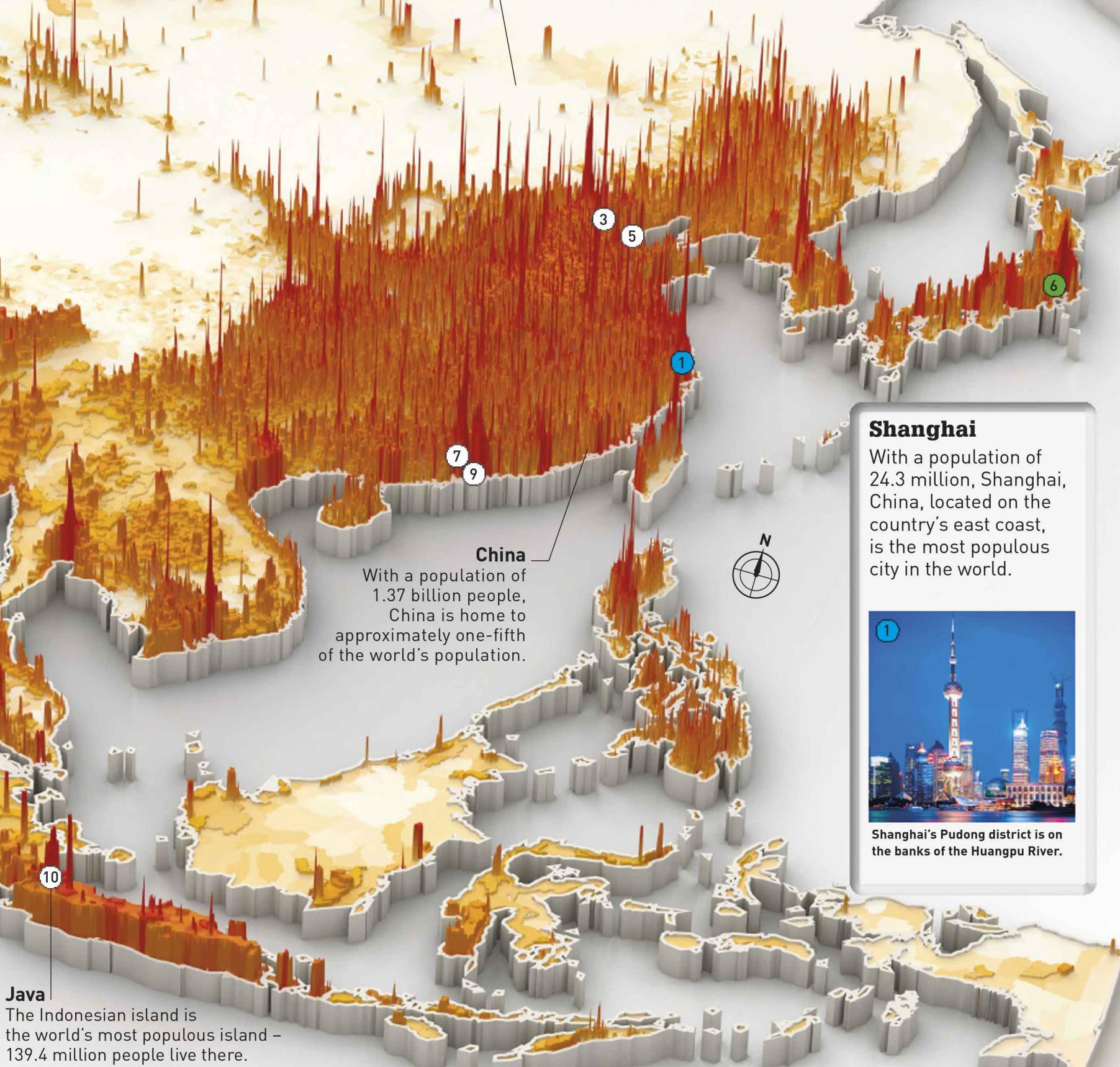


Population

Asia contains some of the most populous regions on Earth. The plains of eastern China, the Ganges-Brahmaputra rivers in India, Japan, and the Indonesian island of Jakarta all have very high population densities. By contrast, Siberia and the Plateau of Tibet are virtually uninhabited.

Mongolia
The least densely populated country in Asia, with an average of 2 inhabitants per sq km (4 people per sq mile).

Almost **two-thirds** of the world's population live **in Asia**.



Karakoram Range

This vast mountain range lies to the west of the Himalayas and contains the highest concentration of peaks over 8,000 m (26,247 ft) on Earth.

**Mount Everest**

Situated on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at 8,848 m (29,029 ft).

Delhi

**The Ganges**

The Ganges is the most sacred river of the Hindu religion. It rises in the Himalayas, and flows through India and Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal.

Lucknow

Siwalik Range

An outer range of the Himalayas that extends more than 1,600 km (1,000 miles) from east to west.

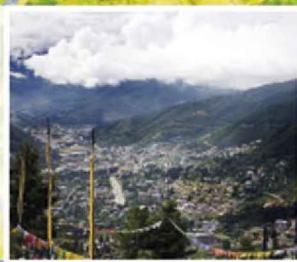
Patna

Ganges

INDIA

Thimphu

At 2,648 m (8,688 ft), Thimphu, in Bhutan, is the third-highest capital city in the world, after La Paz (Bolivia) and Quito (Ecuador).



KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

H i n d u K u s h

Karakoram Range

Kathmandu

The capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu has a population of 1.18 million and is a gateway for tourism in the Himalayas.

**Taklamakan Desert**

A lifeless, sand-shifting desert, the famed Silk Road passed along its northern and southern fringes.

Kunlun Shan

Tarim Basin

Shamo

Altun

Qingzang (Plateau of

Gangdise Shan

NEPAL Range

A L A Y A S

B H U T A N

Bhutan

The small Himalayan kingdom only opened its borders to foreigners in 1974.

Brahmaputra

BANGLADESH

Dhaka

Bay of Bengal

The Himalayas

The Himalayas is the world's highest mountain range. It runs in an arc 2,400 km (1,500 miles) long, spread across five countries: Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. It is also the source of some of the region's major rivers, including the mighty Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.



Plateau of Tibet

The world's largest and highest plateau, it contains the largest amount of ice found outside the poles.

Shan

Gao yuan
Tibet)

Siling Co

Lhasa

Qaidam Pendi

Qilian Shan

CHINA

Nyainqntanglha Shan



Tsangpo Gorge
With an average depth of 5,000 m (16,400 ft), Tsangpo Gorge, in Tibet, China, is the deepest canyon in the world.

 **Brahmaputra River**
One of Asia's major rivers, it cuts through China, Bhutan, India, and Bangladesh before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.



HIGHEST PEAKS

The Himalayas is home to more than 110 mountains over 7,300 m (24,000 ft). The top five are:

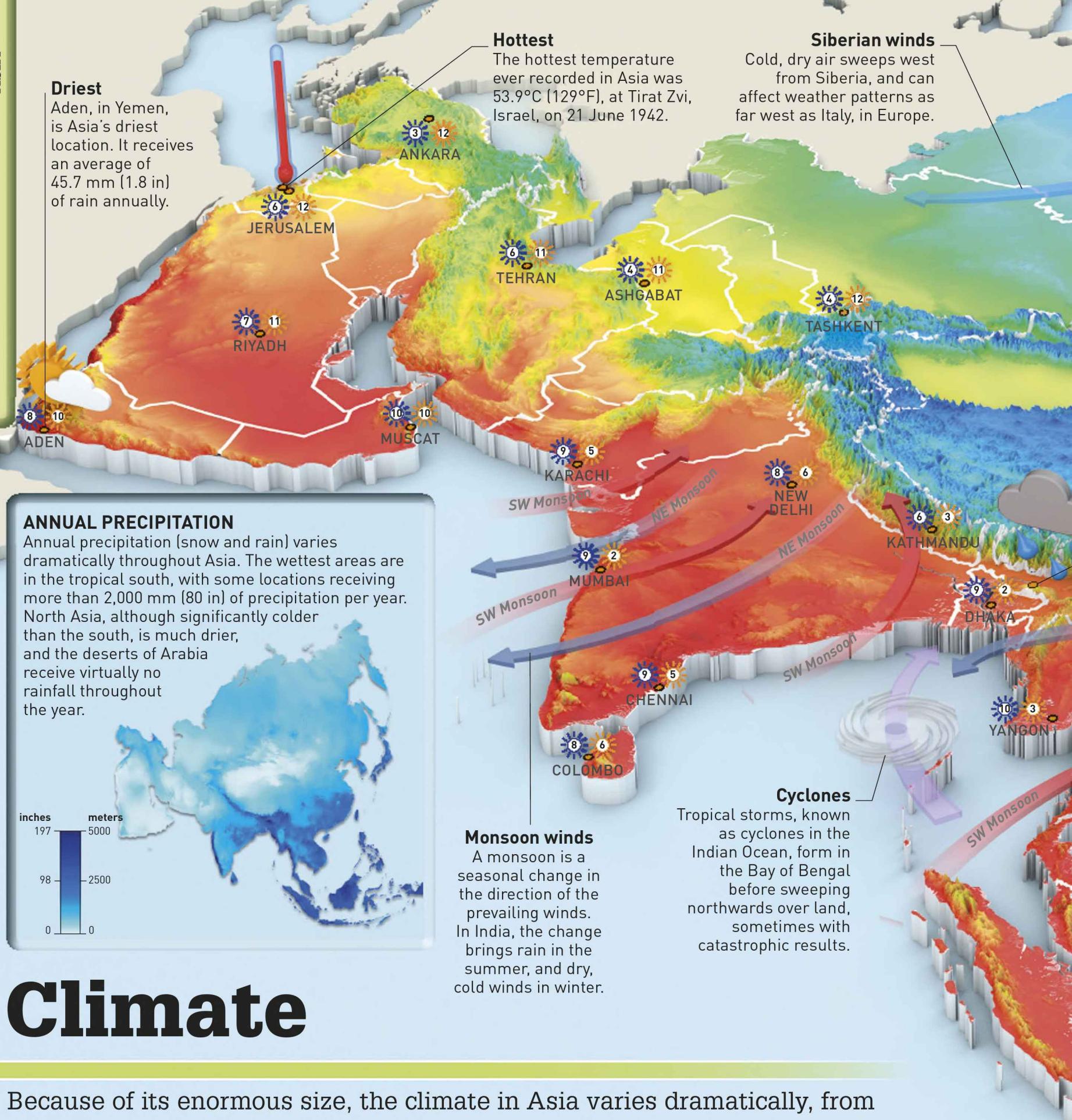
-  **Mount Everest** 8,848 m (29,029 ft)
-  **Kangchenjunga** 8,586 m (28,169 ft)
-  **Lhotse** 8,516 m (27,940 ft)
-  **Makalu** 8,462 m (27,765 ft)
-  **Cho Oyu** 8,201 m (26,905 ft)



Famous landmarks

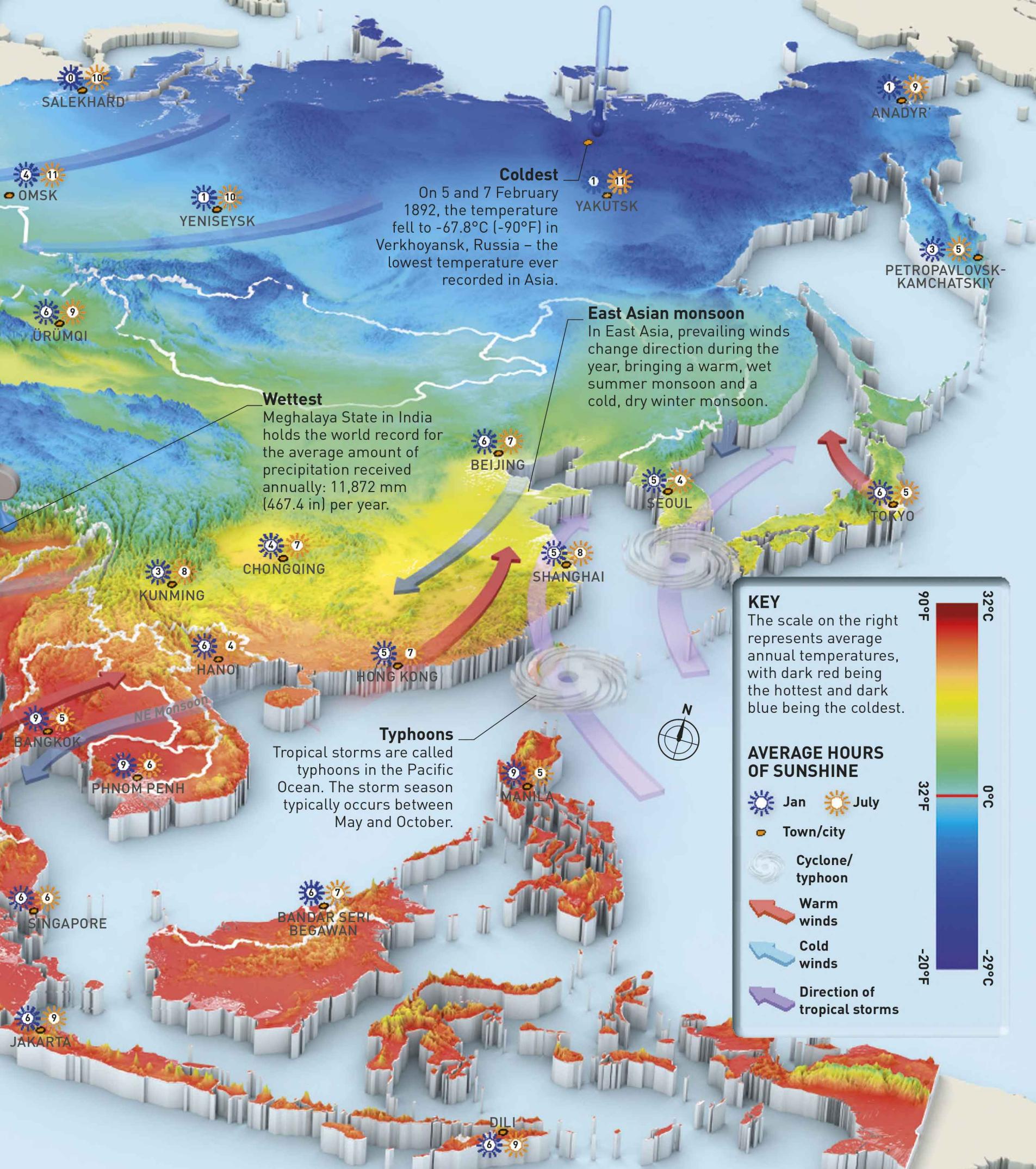
Asia is a continent of huge contrasts. It was the birthplace of some of the earliest human civilizations, has been a hub for many of the world's great religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and, today, is the site of some of the world's most amazing modern architecture.





Climate

Because of its enormous size, the climate in Asia varies dramatically, from the polar cold of the north, to the dry, desert environments of the southwest and centre, and the hot, humid conditions of the tropical south. The continent is home to some of the coldest, hottest, driest, and wettest places on Earth.



MONSOON RAINY SEASON MAY CAUSE DROUGHT AND CROP FAILURES.



Wildlife

From east to west, the continent of Asia stretches almost halfway round the world. As such, it contains a vast array of habitats, from Arctic tundra and high, cold plateaus, to barren deserts and damp, lush rainforests. The continent's array of wildlife is as vast and varied as the landscape itself.



Deforestation

The world's third-largest area of tropical rainforest lies in Southeast Asia, but the region is experiencing deforestation at a faster rate than anywhere else on Earth. This has a devastating effect on both the region's wildlife and the global climate.



Borneo – 56 per cent of the island's forests were cut down between 1985 and 2001.

KEY

Illuminated areas on the map reflect urban, built-up areas and roads, in contrast to rural regions.

 **Rural area**

 **Urban area**



By night

This satellite image of Asia at night shows how the continent's huge population is concentrated in small pockets of land. India, northern China, the southern Korean peninsula, and Japan are densely populated, whereas Siberia and Central Asia are virtually empty.



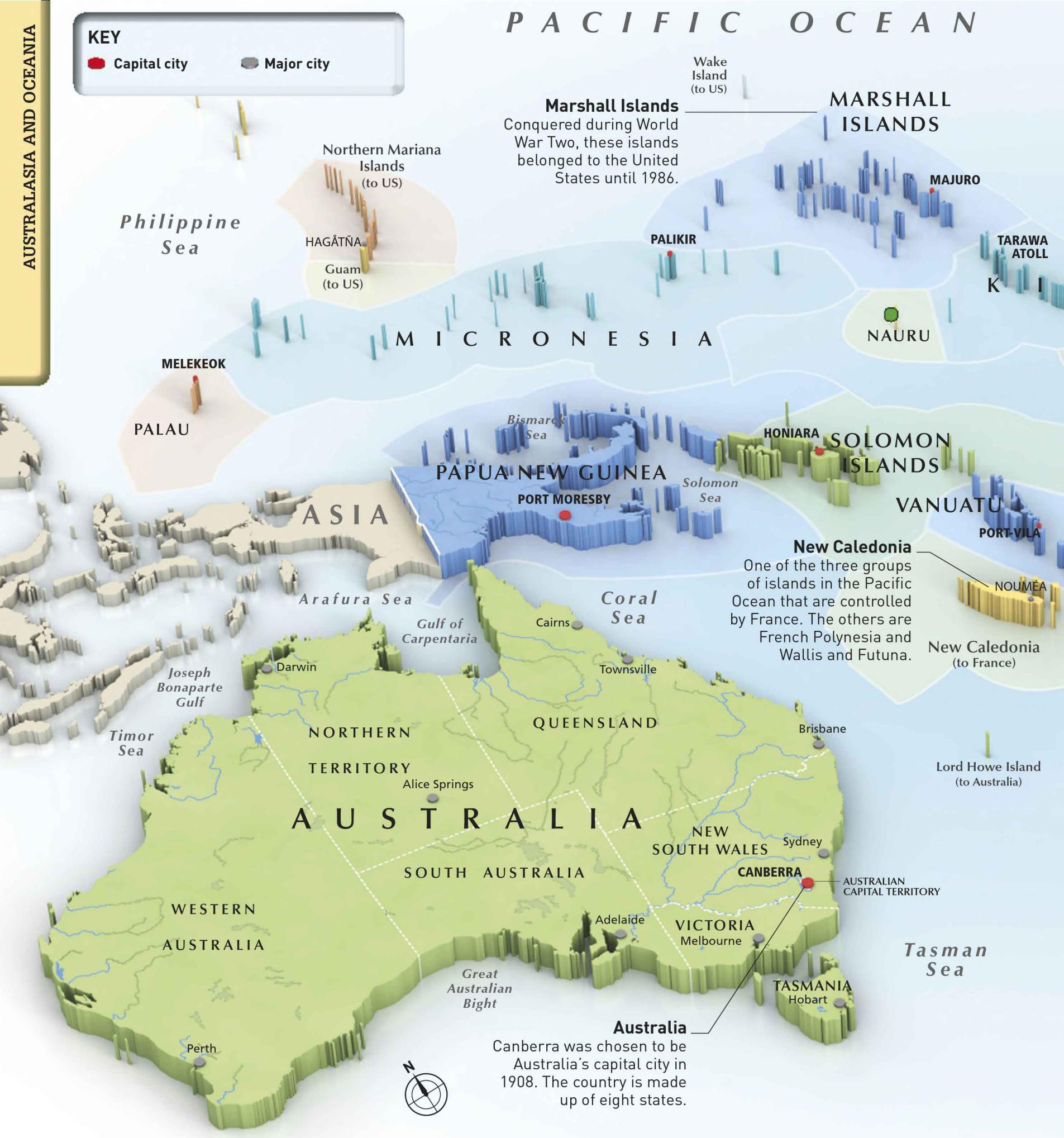


AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA



Australasia & Oceania from space

Vast deserts dominate the interior of Australia, contrasting with the fertile southeast. To the north, dense forest covers much of New Guinea, while in the far south, the snowy peaks of New Zealand's mountains stand out clearly.



Nauru

The Republic of Nauru is the world's smallest island nation, with a total area of 21 sq km (8 sq miles) and a population of just 9,591. The oval-shaped island is surrounded by sandy beaches and a coral reef.

Countries and borders

Australasia is dominated by Australia and New Zealand, two former British colonies that, in recent years, have built new relations with other Pacific nations, such as Japan. Oceania includes the many islands of the Pacific Ocean, whose communities rely increasingly on tourism.

FAST FACTS

Total land area:

8,508,238 sq km
(3,285,049 sq miles)

Total population:

39.7 million

Number of countries:

14

Largest country:

Australia –
7,741,220 sq km
(2,988,901 sq miles)

Smallest country:

Nauru – 21 sq km
(8.1 sq miles)

Largest country population:

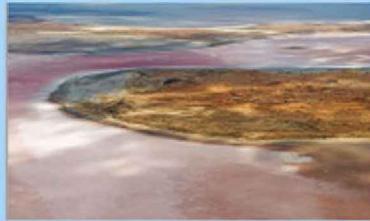
Australia – 22.9 million

HEAD OF STATE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

119

③ Lake Eyre

With an area of 9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles), Lake Eyre is the largest lake in Australasia and Oceania. During the dry season, much of the lake evaporates, leaving behind a thick salt crust.



Lake Eyre sometimes turns pink because of a type of algae in the water.

Philippine Sea

Kimberley Plateau

Rocky gorges and sandstone hills dominate this isolated region of Western Australia.

The world's second-largest island after Greenland, New Guinea is dominated by the New Guinea Highlands.

Marshall Islands

A group of 34 scattered atolls (low-lying islands made of coral reefs) in the Pacific Ocean. The average height of each island is only 2 m (6.6 ft) above sea level.

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New Guinea
The world's second-largest island after Greenland, New Guinea is dominated by the New Guinea Highlands.

Kimberley Plateau
Rocky gorges and sandstone hills dominate this isolated region of Western Australia.

Great Dividing Range
These mountains divide the fertile coastal plains from the dry interior.

Southern Alps
These young mountains are growing rapidly as the Australian and Pacific plates move towards one another.

FAST FACTS

1 Highest point:

Mount Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea – 4,509 m (14,793 ft)

2 Longest river:

Murray-Darling, Australia – 3,750 km (2,330 miles)

4 Largest island:

New Guinea – 808,000 sq km (312,000 sq miles)

3 Largest lake:

Lake Eyre, Australia – 9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles)



The Murray-Darling river system is long and slow-flowing.

Micronesia

Micronesia is a state of more than 600 islands, many of which are atolls.



Landscape

The Australian landscape is dominated by ancient mountain ranges and unusual rock formations. New Zealand is a land of earthquakes, volcanoes, and geysers. Oceania is made up of approximately 10,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Fascinating facts

COUNTRY WITH THE MOST NEIGHBOURS



Papua New Guinea
1 – Indonesia

LONGEST TUNNELS



Railway tunnel

Kaimai Tunnel, North Island, New Zealand – 8.85 km (5.5 miles)



Road tunnel

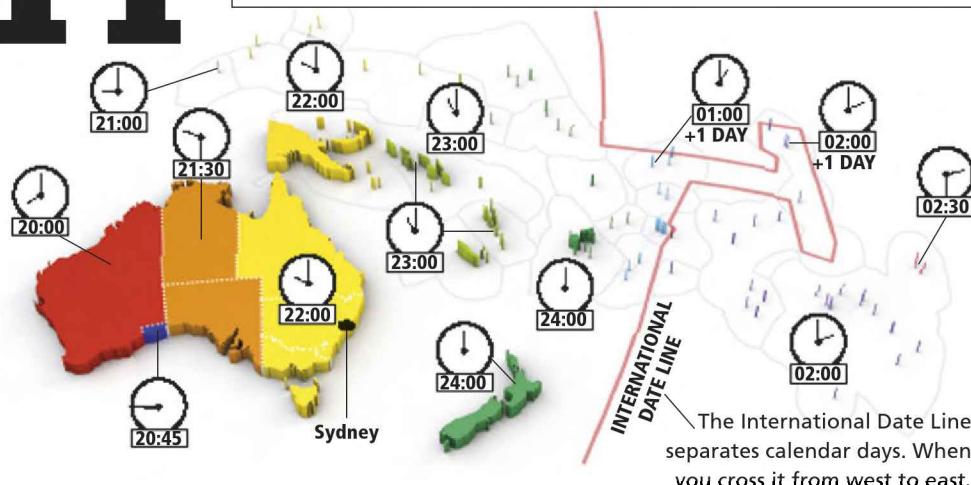
Airport Link, Brisbane, Australia – 6.7 km (4.16 miles)

Number of time zones

11



The world is split into 39 time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UCT) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UCT. Therefore, on this map, if it was 12:00 in London, it would be 22:00 in Sydney, Australia (10 hours ahead of UCT).

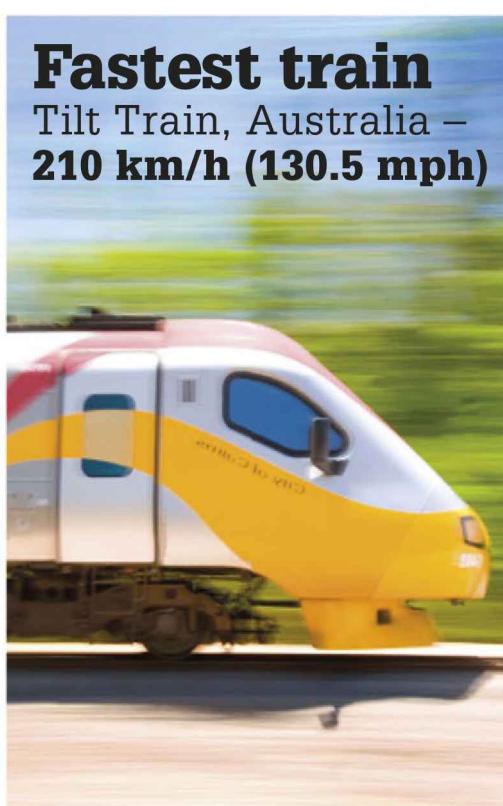


Longest coastline

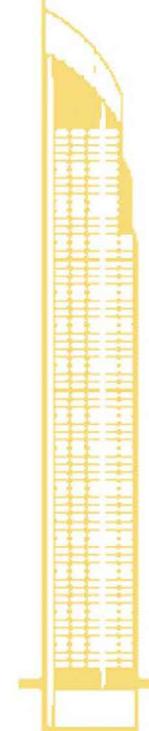
Australia – 25,760 km (16,006.5 miles)

Fastest train

Tilt Train, Australia – 210 km/h (130.5 mph)



Q1
Gold Coast, Australia
323 m (1,060 ft)



Busiest port

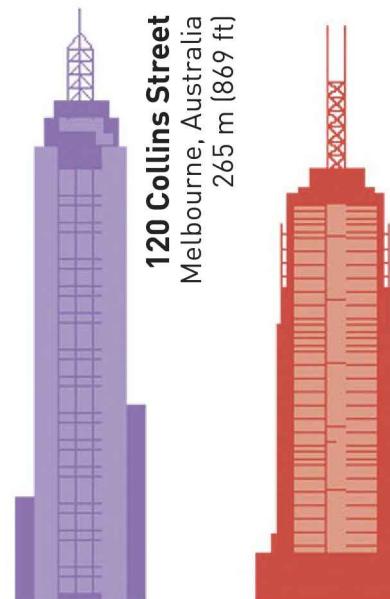
Port Hedland, Western Australia – 488,000 kilotonnes of cargo per year, making it the eighth-busiest port in the world

Tallest buildings

Eureka Tower
Melbourne, Australia
297 m (974 ft)



120 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
265 m (869 ft)



101 Collins Street
Melbourne, Australia
260 m (853 ft)



Prima Pearl
Melbourne, Australia
254 m (833 ft)



Busiest airport Sydney Airport, Sydney, Australia – 39.7 million passengers per year

BRIDGES

Longest bridge:

Macleay River Bridge, Australia – **3.2 km (2 miles)**

● **Highest bridge:** Mohaka Viaduct, Raupunga, New Zealand – **95 m (312 ft)**



Most visited cities (Visitors per year)

Sydney, Australia
2.853 million

Melbourne, Australia
2.166 million

Auckland, NZ
1.965 million

Christchurch, NZ
1.732 million

Brisbane, Australia
1.066 million

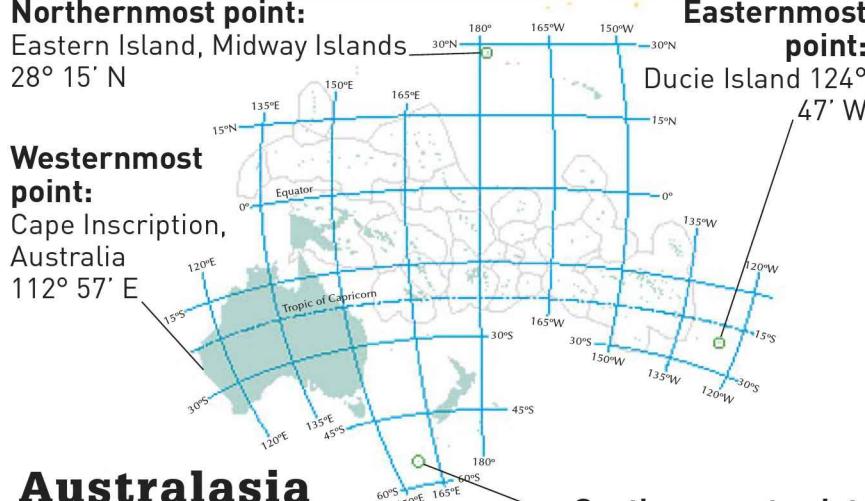
Northernmost point:

Eastern Island, Midway Islands
28° 15' N

Westernmost point:

Cape Inscription, Australia
112° 57' E

Australasia and Oceania's extreme points



WATERFALLS

Highest: Browne Falls, New Zealand –

836 m (2,744 ft)

Largest (by volume):

Huka Falls, Taupo, New Zealand –

220 m³ (7,769 ft³) of water per second

LAKES

Largest lake: Lake Eyre, Australia – **9,583 sq km (3,700 sq miles)**

● **Deepest lake:** Lake Hauroko, New Zealand – **462 m (1,516 ft)**



Highest mountains

2. Mount Giluwe
Papua New Guinea
4,368 m (14,331 ft)

1. Mount Wilhelm
Papua New Guinea
4,509 m (14,793 ft)

3. Mount Herbert
Papua New Guinea
4,267 m (13,999 ft)

4. Mount Bangeta
Papua New Guinea
4,121 m (13,520 ft)

5. Mount Victoria
Papua New Guinea
4,072 m (13,360 ft)

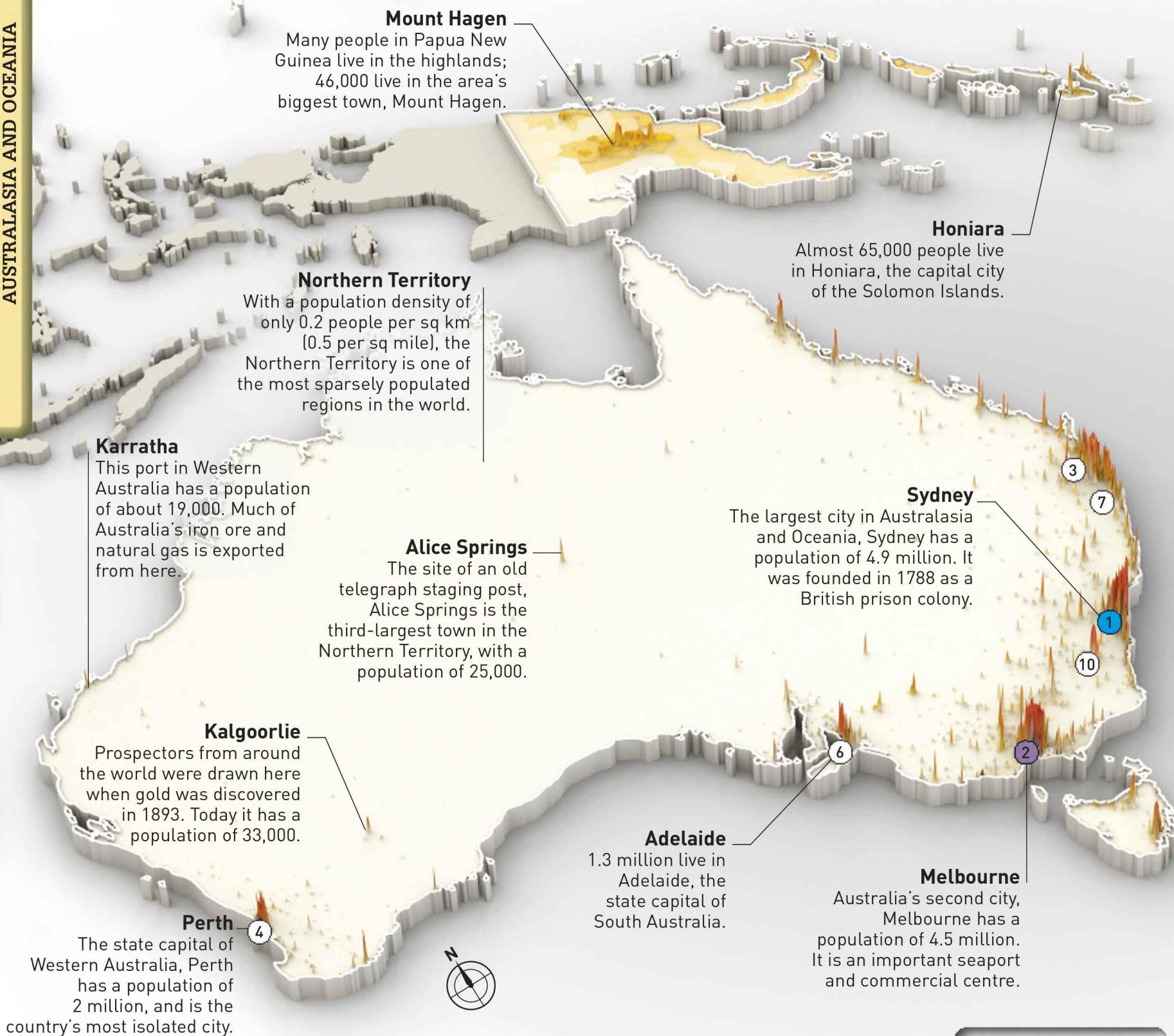
HIGHEST VOLCANO

Mount Giluwe, Papua New Guinea – **4,368 m (14,331 ft)**

BIGGEST GLACIER

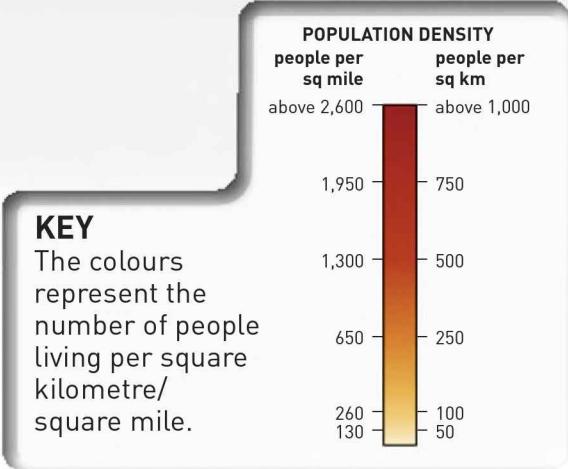
Tasman Glacier, New Zealand – **27 km (17 miles) long, with an area of 101 sq km (39 sq miles)**

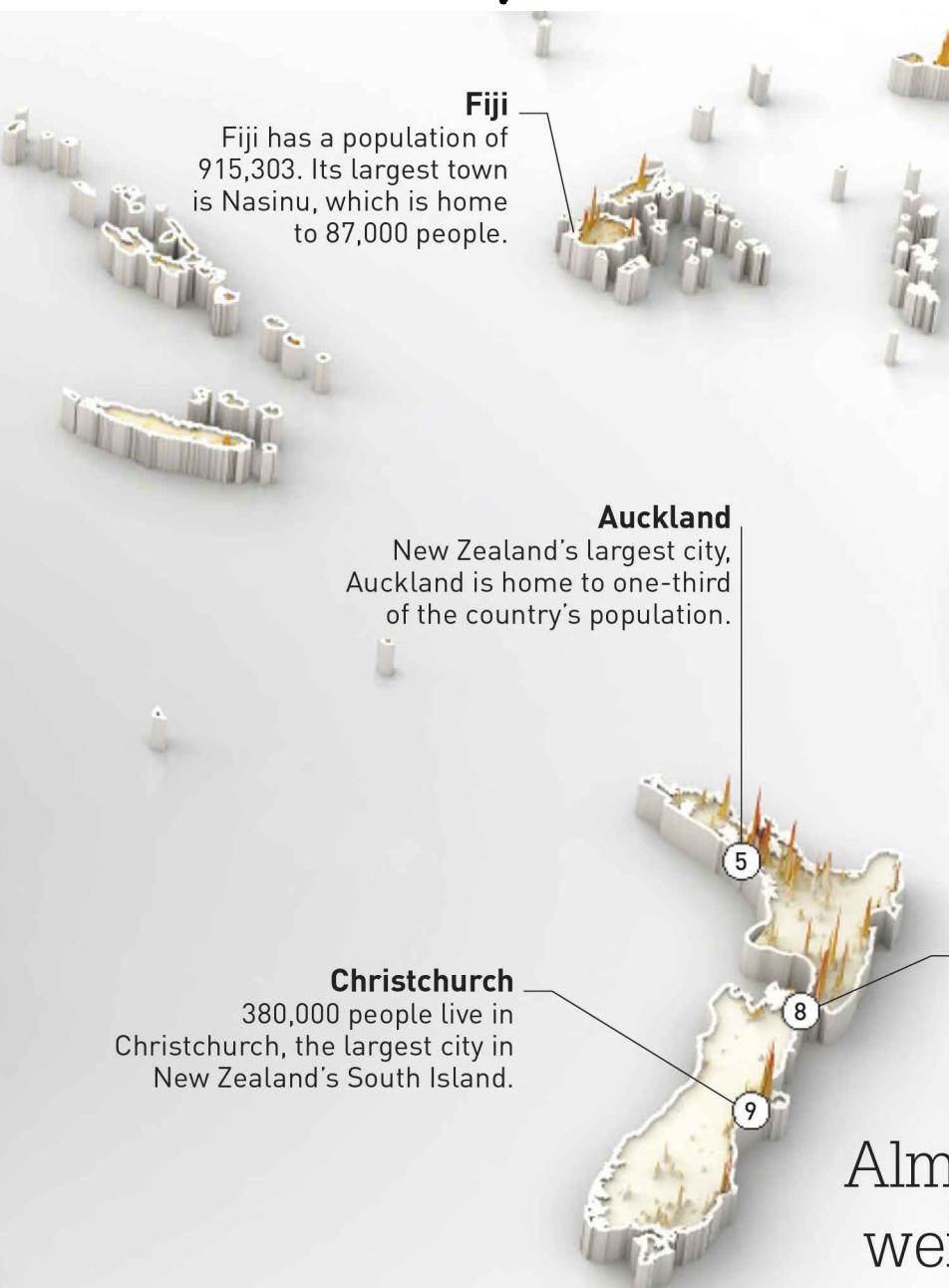




Population

Australia's population is concentrated in the major cities of the south east, with very few people living in the continent's centre. In New Zealand, most people live in cities on the North Island, while the mountainous South Island is less populated.





Australasia and Oceania's largest cities

The list below is based on the number of people living inside a city's boundaries.

- 1 Sydney, Australia – 4.9 million
- 2 Melbourne, Australia – 4.5 million
- 3 Brisbane, Australia – 2.3 million
- 4 Perth, Australia – 2 million
- 5 Auckland, New Zealand – 1.4 million
- 6 Adelaide, Australia – 1.3 million
- 7 Gold Coast, Australia – 530,000
- 8 Wellington, New Zealand – 400,000
- 9 Christchurch, New Zealand – 389,000
- 10 Canberra, Australia – 380,000



Melbourne is the capital city of the Australian state of Victoria.

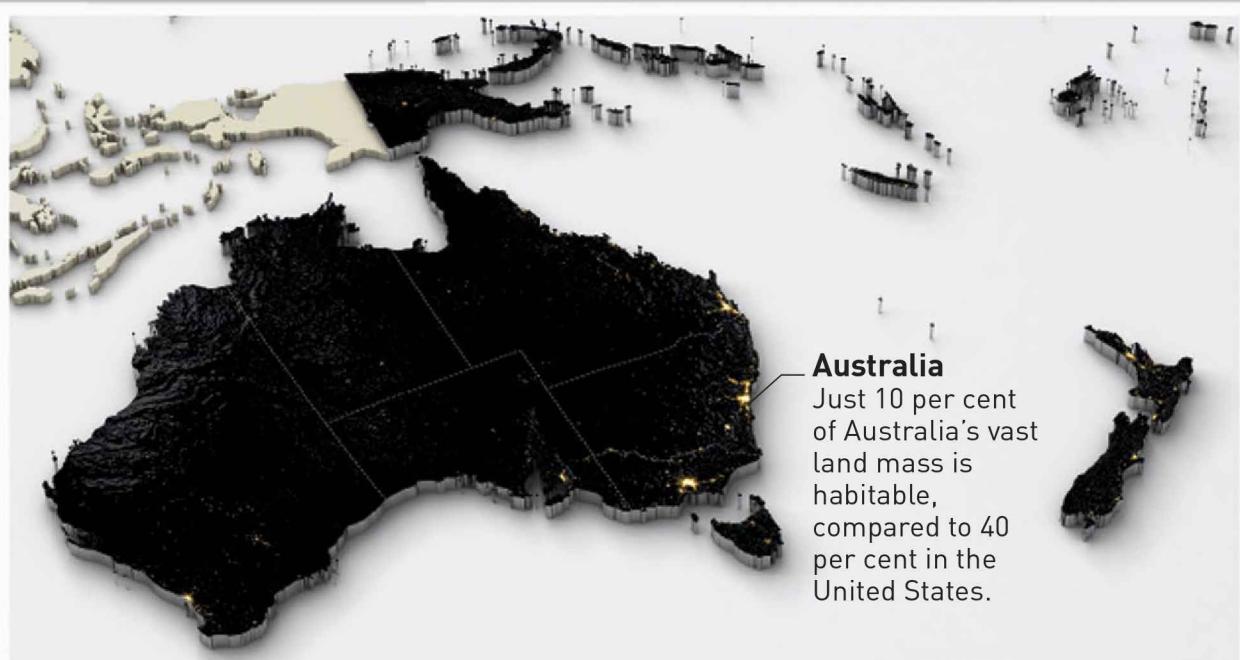
Almost **one in three** Australians were born **outside** the country.

BY NIGHT

The brightly lit cities of southeastern Australia shine brightly, and Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane are easy to spot. In contrast, the country's interior is shrouded in darkness. Auckland and Wellington are two of the bright points on New Zealand's North Island, with only Christchurch standing out on South Island.

KEY

- Rural area
- Urban area



New Zealand



Almost one-third of New Zealand has been set aside as protected national park. Among its incredible range of landscapes are the towering peaks of the Southern Alps, and the geysers and hot springs of North Island.



Queenstown

One of the biggest tourist resorts in the South Island, Queenstown attracts lovers of extreme sports, such as bungee jumping and white-water rafting.

Fiordland National Park

Fourteen beautiful fjords cut their way through rugged mountain scenery in this remote wilderness. The fjords are home to fur seals, dolphins, and penguins.



Southland

South Island's most southerly region is sparsely populated, with only 2.9 people per sq km (7.4 people per sq mile).



Milford Sound

This 16-km (10-mile) long fjord is one of the highlights of the Fiordland National Park. The surrounding mountains are very popular with hikers.



Lake Te Anau

With a depth of up to 417 m (1,368 ft), Lake Te Anau contains the largest amount of freshwater in Australasia and Oceania. It is a popular destination for fishing and water sports.



Mount Aspiring National Park

Soaring peaks, alpine lakes, and dense forests make this one of the country's most beautiful national parks.

Ruapehu

One of the most active volcanoes in New Zealand, Ruapehu is also a popular ski resort.

Franz Josef Glacier

This glacier descends from the Southern Alps into the lush forests 300 m (984 ft) above sea level.

A

P

S

n

Mountains

Garvie Mountains

Hawkdun Range

Kakanui Mountains

Lammerlaw Range

Canterbury Bight

Canterbury Plains

Pegasus Bay

Christchurch

Rotorua

The volcanic lake at Rotorua is surrounded by bubbling mud pools and hot springs. The Pohutu Geyser fires hot water 30 m (98.4 ft) into the air.

Dunedin

Balclutha

Invercargill

New Zealand's southernmost city is home to 50,000 people.

Invercargill

Catlins

Toetoes Bay

Ruapuke Island

The Catlins

This remote region is known for its rugged coastline and rolling, wooded hills.

Codfish Island

Stewart Island



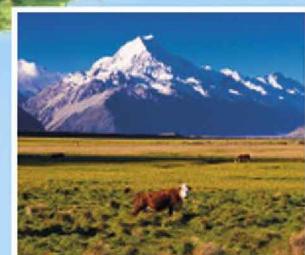
Stewart Island

About 85 per cent of New Zealand's third largest island is set aside as national park. Stewart Island is home to one of the country's biggest populations of kiwis.



Aoraki

New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki, is 3,724 m (12,218 ft) high. It is surrounded by eight of the country's largest glaciers.





Roi Mata's Domain
Three sites associated with the life and death of one of Vanuatu's greatest chiefs.

East Rennell, Solomon Islands

Jean-Marie Tjibaou Centre
This cultural centre celebrates the art of the Kanak people of New Caledonia.

Great Barrier Reef, Australia

Q1 Tower, Gold Coast, Australia

Byron Bay Lighthouse, New South Wales

Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia

Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Australia

Twelve Apostles National Park, Victoria

Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania

KEY
○ Landmark location

● The Great Barrier Reef

One of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef stretches for 2,600 km (1,600 miles) along the northeastern coast of Australia. The reef is made of coral, which is built by billions of tiny creatures over hundreds of years. It is home to about 1,500 species of fish, 14 species of sea snake, and more than 3,000 different types of mollusc.

The *roof of the Sydney Opera House* is covered with **1,056,006 ceramic tiles**.

Famous landmarks

The rock formations of the Australian Outback and the dramatic scenery of New Zealand's fjordland are just two of the region's many natural wonders. The region is also home to some iconic modern architecture, such as the Sydney Opera House.

Sky Tower, Auckland, New Zealand

Mount Ngauruhoe, Tongariro National Park, New Zealand

Milford Sound, Te Wahipounamu, New Zealand

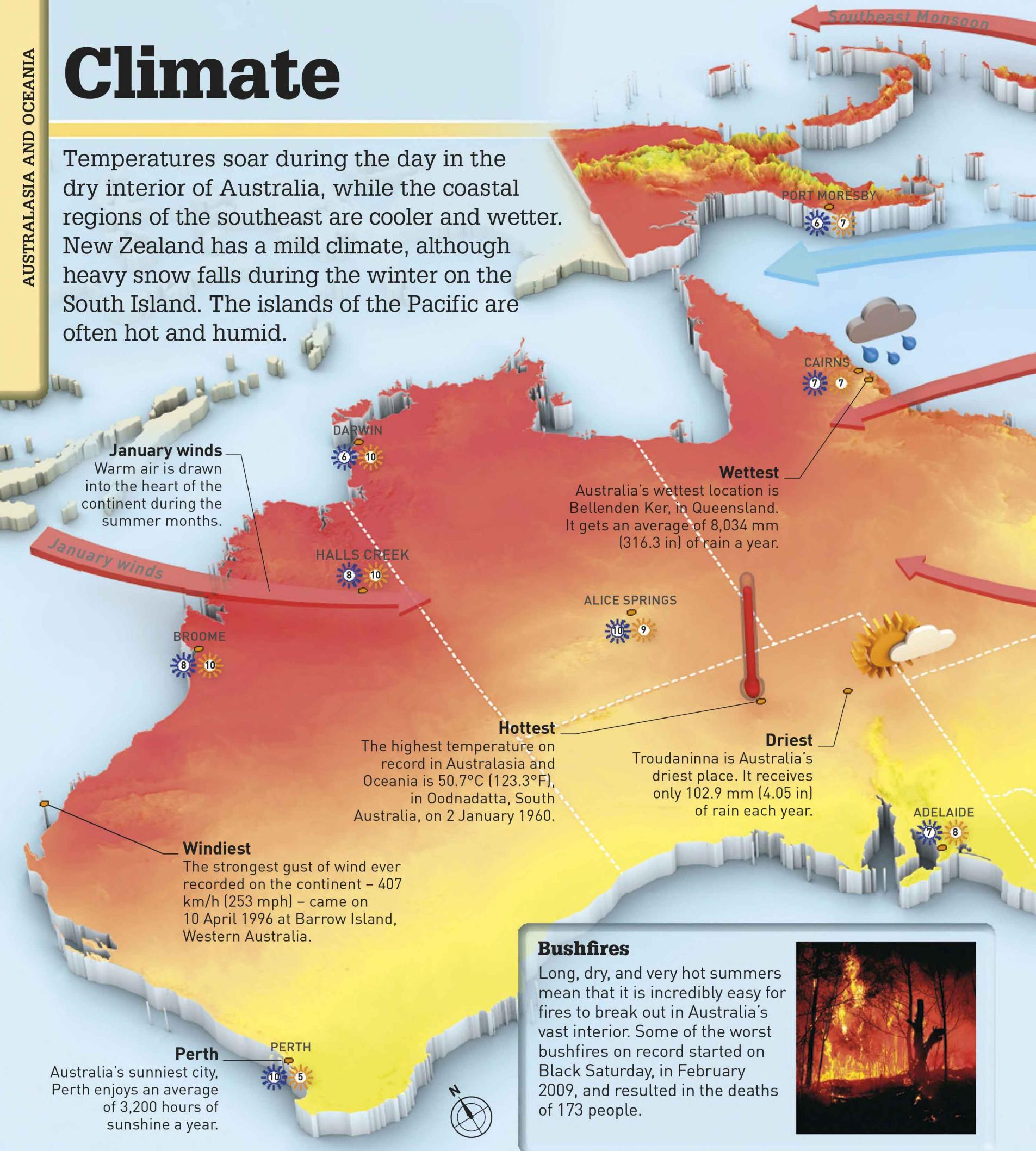
Moeraki Boulders, Hampden, New Zealand

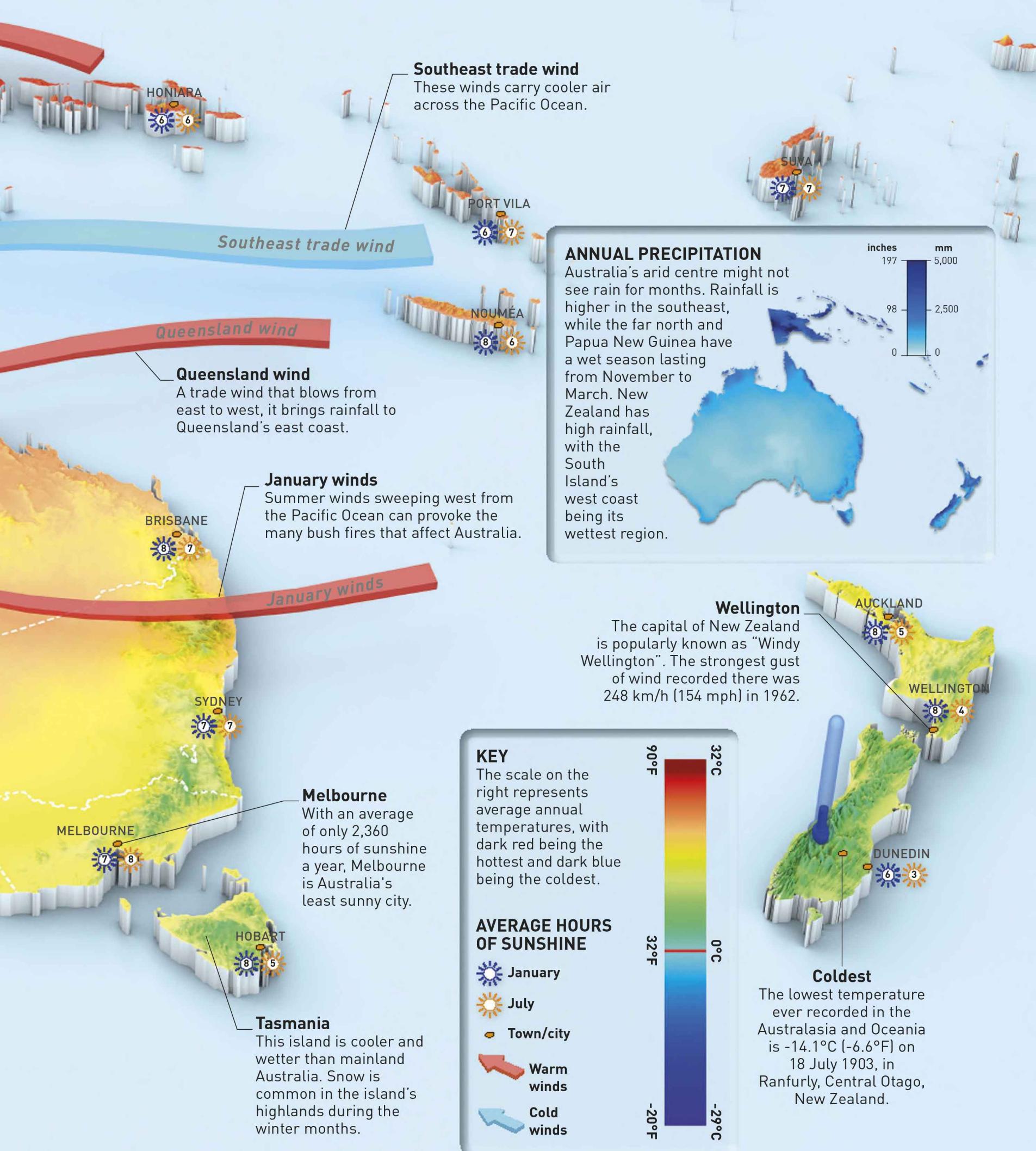
FROM SYDNEY TO PERTH ON THE TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY.

129

Climate

Temperatures soar during the day in the dry interior of Australia, while the coastal regions of the southeast are cooler and wetter. New Zealand has a mild climate, although heavy snow falls during the winter on the South Island. The islands of the Pacific are often hot and humid.





TO FIND THOUSANDS OF SPIDERS HAD RAINED ONTO THEIR TOWN.

BIOMES

Deserts and temperate broadleaf forest are dominant in Australia, while the mountain habitat of the Southern Alps dominates New Zealand.

- Temperate broadleaf forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Tropical broadleaf forest
- Tropical dry broadleaf forest
- Tropical/sub-tropical grassland
- Mountain
- Desert
- Mangrove

Black flying fox

This fruit bat's wingspan reaches up to 2 m (6.6 ft).

Blue-spotted stingray

Hiding patiently on the seabed, this ray ambushes passing snails and crabs.

Dwarf bearded dragon

This small lizard lives off insects, invertebrates, and small mammals.

Emu

Australia's largest bird can reach up to 1.9 m (6.2 ft) in height. Its shaggy plumage resembles hair.

Tiger snake

This extremely venomous snake preys on frogs, lizards, birds, and small mammals.

Sir David's echidna

This spiny anteater, named for British naturalist Sir David Attenborough, is critically endangered.

Southern cassowary

Its horn-like crest helps this bird push head-first through vegetation.

Saltwater crocodile

The largest of the reptiles, this crocodile drowns its prey by rolling it in the water.

Dingo

Descended from prehistoric domestic dogs, dingoes are widespread throughout Australia.

Kangaroo

These animals are marsupials, meaning that females nurture their young in pouches.

Western brown snake

This fast-moving snake preys on mice and lizards.

Numbat

This marsupial rips open termite nests with its powerful front teeth and claws.

Cuscus

This possum uses its strong tail to climb through trees.

Frilled lizard

When threatened, this lizard opens a flap of skin to warn off predators.

Cockatoo

These noisy parrots gather in flocks that can include several hundred birds.

Spiny anteater

One of the few mammals to lay eggs, the spiny anteater is protected by sharp spines.

Wombat

This marsupial lives in complex burrows that can be up to 200 m (660 ft) long.

Inland taipan

The most venomous land snake in the world, its prey includes rats and other small mammals.

Redback spider

A bite from this spider can cause pain, sickness, and convulsions.

Poisonous snakes

Some of the world's most dangerous snakes live in Australia. The eastern brown snake causes the most deaths, followed by the western brown snake, and the tiger snake.



The eastern brown snake can be extremely aggressive.







POLAR REFLECTIONS

Extreme cold

The North and South Poles are the northernmost and southernmost points on Earth. The climate there is extremely harsh, with temperatures rarely rising above 0°C (32°F).



Vinson Massif

Part of a large mountain range by the Ronne Ice Shelf, this massif contains Antarctica's highest peak, Mount Vinson, at 4,892 m (16,050 ft).



South Pole Station

The Amundsen-Scott research station is located at the Geographical South Pole. First opened in 1956, it can house up to 200 researchers.

Southern elephant seal

The largest of all seals, males can be over 6 m (20 ft) long and weigh up to 4,000 kg (8,800 lb).

Antarctic minke whale

This small whale lives in groups of two to four.

Antarctic ice fish

A type of anti-freeze in its blood enables this fish to survive in ice-cold water.

Wandering albatross

With the largest wing span of any bird – up to 3.5 m (11.5 ft) – it spends most of its life in flight at sea.



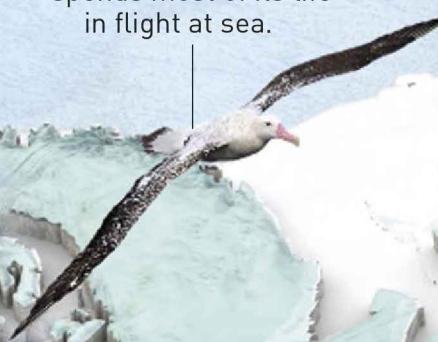
Snowy sheathbill

This bird does not swim, so steals fish, and eggs or chicks, from penguins.



South polar skua

Up to 53 cm (21 in) tall, this large bird breeds in Antarctica before returning to a life on the oceans.



Antarctic toothfish

Growing up to 1.7 m (5.6 ft) long, this fish feeds on squid, crabs, prawns, and smaller fish.

Antarctica



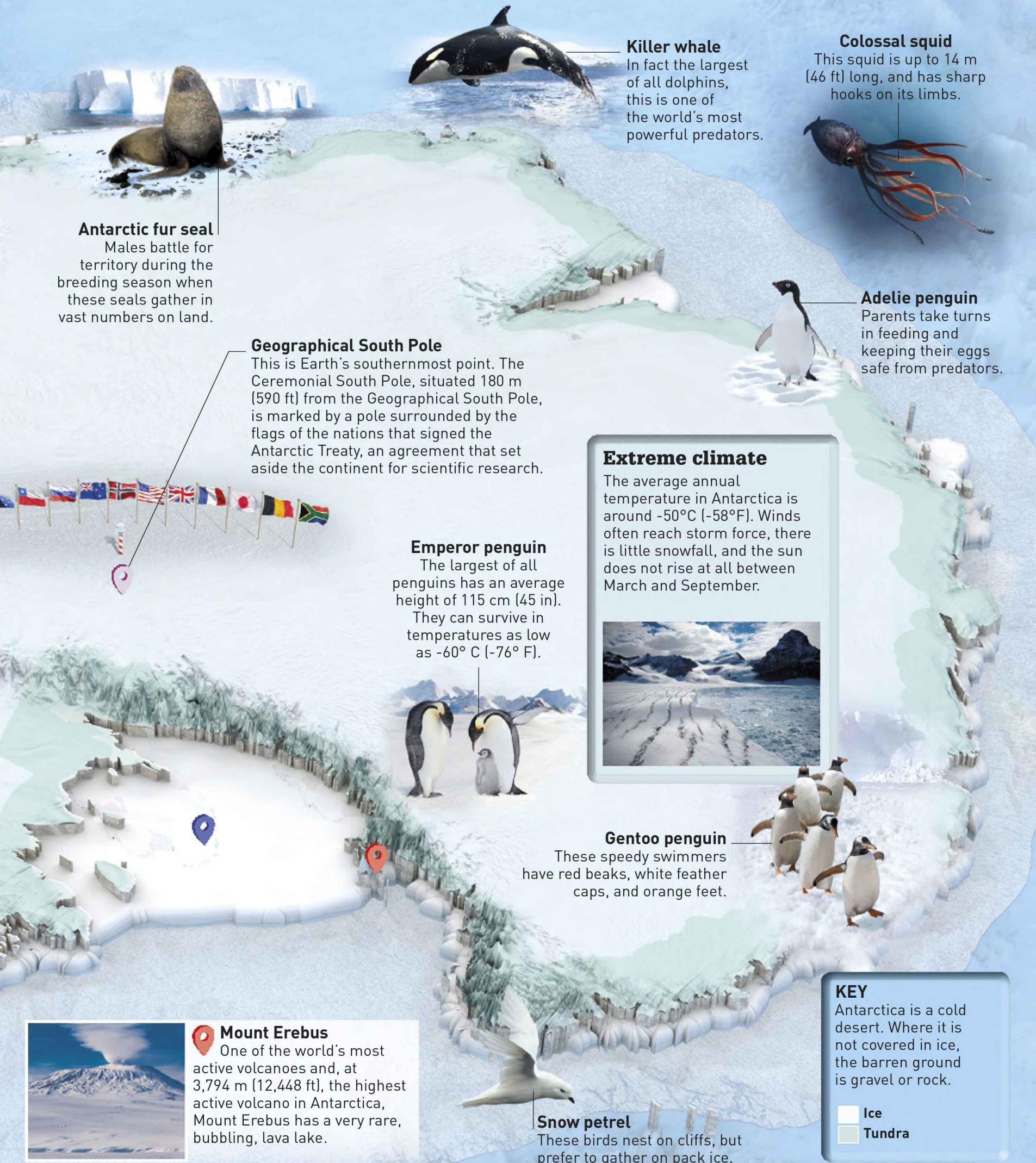
Earth's southernmost continent is the coldest region in the world, with temperatures reaching as low as

-93.2°C (-135.8°F). Despite the harsh conditions, the continent is home to a number of animals. However, climate change is a threat to both Antarctica's animals and landscape.



Ross Ice Shelf

This enormous layer of floating ice is over 600 km (370 miles) long. About 90 per cent of its ice lies underwater.



IT MELTED, WORLD SEA LEVELS WOULD RISE BY ABOUT 60 M (200 FT).

Bowhead whale

These whales can break through ice to breathe and can live for up to 130 years.

North Pole

Earth's northernmost point is situated on an ice cap. Below it, the Arctic Ocean is around 4,200 m (13,800 ft) deep.

**Arctic skua**

These aggressive seabirds steal food from other birds by attacking them in mid-air.

Arctic hare

These hares do not hibernate, and find food under the snow.

**Spectacled eider**

After breeding on the coasts of Alaska and northeast Siberia, these ducks gather in spots of open sea in the pack ice.

**Bewick's swan**

Each individual swan has a unique pattern on its black and yellow beak.

Guillemot

Found throughout the Arctic, these birds can dive as deep as 60 m (197 ft) to find food.

**Rock ptarmigan**

This bird changes its white feathers to speckled brown in summer.

**Arctic tern**

These small birds fly 70,000 km (43,496 miles) between the North and South Poles every year.

**BIOMES**

Ice
Tundra
Boreal forest/taiga

Lake Hazen

One of the largest lakes in the Arctic region, the 269-m (883-ft) deep Lake Hazen, in Canada, is frozen over for most of the year.

**Greenland shark**

A slow-swimming scavenger, this shark sniffs out dead animals in the water.

The Arctic

Yenisei

The Yenisei river, in Russia, is the largest river to flow out into the Arctic Ocean. Its 50-km (31-mile) wide estuary is frozen for long parts of the year.



Siberian crane

This bird easily snips off roots and catches fish with its saw-edged beak.

Beluga whale

White in colour, this small whale speaks in clicks and whistles.



Brent goose
Unlike other geese, the Brent flies in long lines instead of in a V-shape.

Polar bear

A powerful predator, this bear roams over land and pack ice to find prey.



Siberian crane

This bird easily snips off roots and catches fish with its saw-edged beak.



Porbeagle shark

This shark grows up to 2.5 m (8.2 ft) in length and feeds on squid and fish.

Narwhal

The tusks of this small whale can grow up to 3 m (9.8 ft).



Puffin
60 per cent of the world's puffins live in Iceland.



Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is not a continent, but the area of frozen waters surrounding the North Pole. It includes the northernmost parts of three continents – North America, Europe, and Asia. Many different animals have made a home in this inhospitable region.



Ermine

This mammal's coat turns from brown to white in winter for camouflage.



Spiny dogfish

This fish is one of the most numerous species of shark in the world.



Lemming

Soft, warm fur helps this rodent stay active through the winter.



Bluntnose sixgill shark

This fast-swimming shark has six gills instead of the five normal in most sharks.



Murmansk

Around 300,000 people live in the Russian port of Murmansk, the largest city inside the Arctic Circle.







THE OCEANS

Mighty seas

Oceans cover approximately 71 per cent of Earth's surface and contain 97 per cent of the water found on our planet.

Pacific Ocean

<https://sanet.st/blogs/polatebooks/>

The Pacific is by far the world's largest ocean. At its widest point (stretching from Colombia to Indonesia), it extends for 19,800 km (12,300 miles) – almost halfway around the world. The deepest trenches on Earth can be found here, together with massive volcanoes that rise up from the ocean's floor.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

155,557,000 sq km
(60,060,893 sq miles)

Coastline:

135,663 km (84,297 miles)

Average depth:

3,970 m (13,025 ft)

Lowest point:

Challenger Deep, Mariana Trench – 10,924 m (35,840 ft)

Major access points:

- ① Panama Canal
- ② Strait of Magellan
- ③ Tsugaru Strait
- ④ Tsushima
- ⑤ Torres Strait



The Strait of Magellan, in southern Chile/Argentina, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

The Emperor Seamounts

These underwater mountains extend northwest from Hawaii. Each mount is named for a Japanese emperor.

Mariana Trench

The lowest point on Earth, its deepest point lies almost 11 km (7 miles) beneath the ocean's surface.

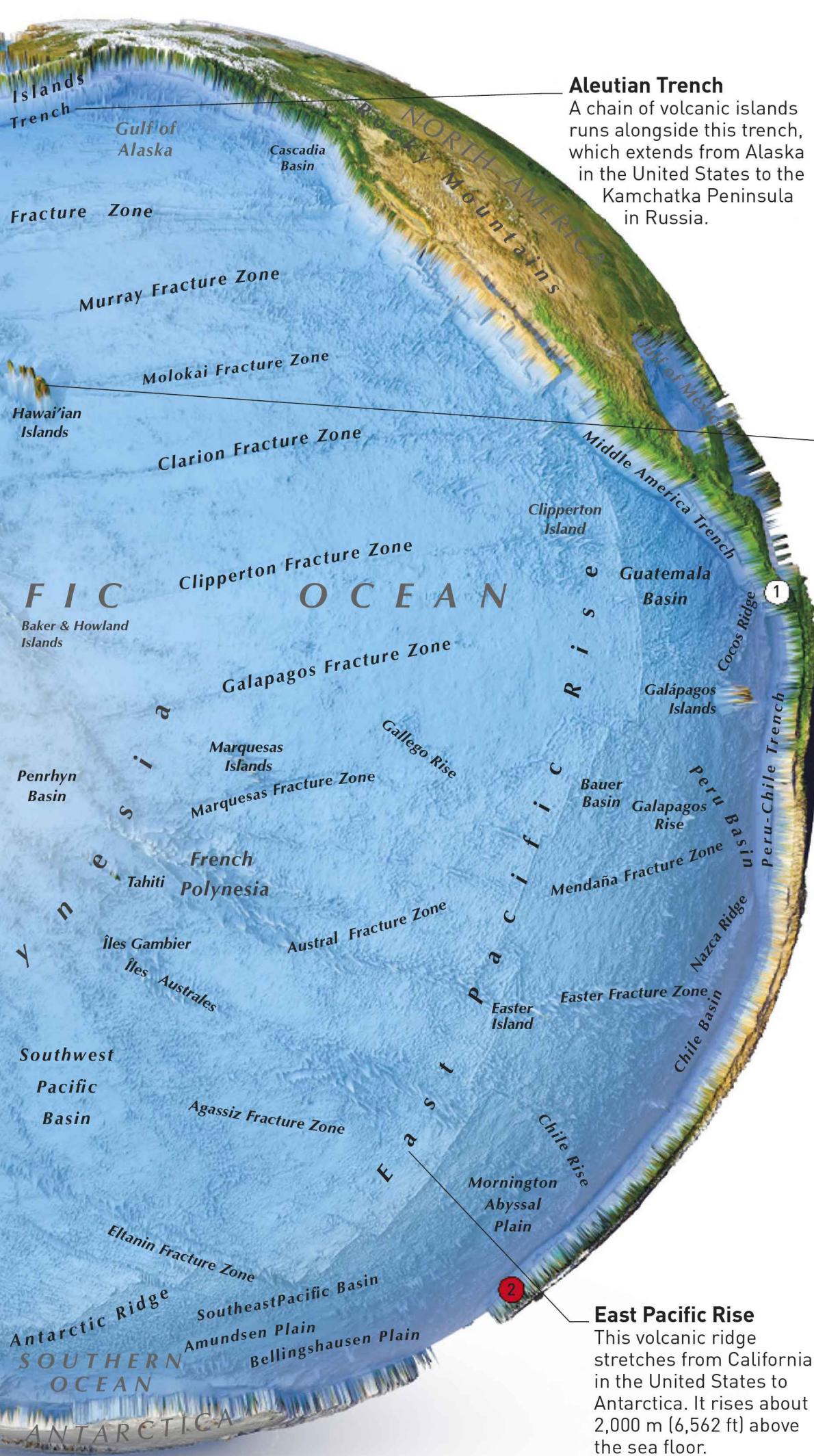
New Caledonia

This island and New Zealand are all that remain of an ancient continent called Zealandia that was half the size of Australia.



The Tonga Trench

Lying north of New Zealand's North Island, this trench reaches an average depth of 10,500 m (34,448 ft).



The Pacific Ocean contains **just over half** of all the world's **seawater**.

Mauna Loa

Measuring 9,000 m (29,500 ft) in height from the ocean floor to its summit, the world's largest active volcano looms over Hawaii.

Peru-Chile Trench

This 5,900-km (3,660-mile) long trench is the longest in the Pacific Ocean. It follows the line of the Andes Mountains.



Ring of Fire

The Pacific Ocean is surrounded by a band of volcanoes called the Ring of Fire. This ring extends from New Zealand to South America and contains more than three-quarters of the world's volcanoes, including Mount Fuji, in Japan, and Mount St Helens in the United States.

Atlantic Ocean

The Atlantic is the world's second-largest ocean. It stretches from the Arctic to the Antarctic, separating Europe and Africa from the Americas. The Atlantic Ocean covers about one-fifth of the planet's surface, is home to some of the world's richest fishing waters, and contains a plentiful supply of gas and oil.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

76,762,000 sq km (29,637,974 sq miles)

Coastline:

111,866 km (69,510 miles)

Average depth:

3,646 m (11,962 ft)

Lowest point:

Milwaukee Deep, Puerto Rico Trench – 8,605 m (28,232 ft)

Major access points:

- ① English Channel
- ② Panama Canal
- ③ Straits of Florida
- ④ Strait of Gibraltar
- ⑤ Strait of Magellan



The Panama Canal, one of the world's busiest waterways, connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Puerto Rico Trench

This trench stretches for 800 km (497 miles) and contains the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean.

Mid-Atlantic Ridge

This underwater mountain range runs for about 16,000 km (10,000 miles) along the ocean floor.

Amazon Fan

Mud and clay from the Amazon River have settled on the ocean floor, forming a mound of sediment 1.3 million sq km (502,000 sq miles) in size.

Icebergs

The icebergs of the Antarctic are usually much larger than those found in the Arctic. They can reach lengths of up to 80 km (50 miles).





Iceland

With an area of 103,000 sq km (39,769 sq miles), Iceland is the largest of the islands that lie on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is home to more than 100 volcanoes, many of which are still active, as well as to many geysers and hot springs.

Saint Helena

This tiny volcanic island has an area of just 122 sq km (47 sq miles). It has been under British control since 1676.

Tristan da Cunha

Lying 2,000 km (1,250 miles) from the nearest inhabited land (Saint Helena), this is the most isolated group of inhabited islands in the world. Just over 250 people live there.

The **Atlantic** is widening by up to **10 cm** (3.9 in) every year as its **continental plates** move **slowly** apart.

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is the smallest of the world's major oceans, but it provides important sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia, with Europe and the Americas. As with the Pacific Ocean, its warm waters are dotted with coral atolls and islands. Around one-fifth of the world's population live on its shores.

FAST FACTS

Total area:

68,556,000 sq km
(26,469,620 sq miles)

Coastline:

66,526 km (41,337 miles)

Average depth:

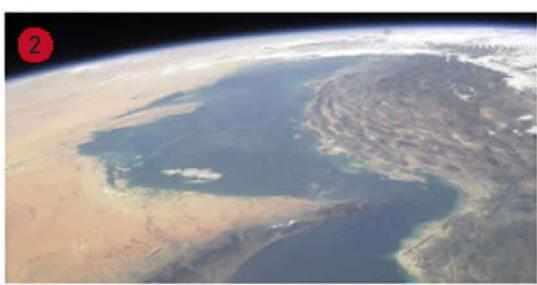
3,741 m (12,274 ft)

Lowest point:

Diamantina Deep, Java Trench –
7,258 m (23,812 ft)

Major access points:

- ① Bab El Mandeb
- ② Strait of Hormuz
- ③ Strait of Malacca
- ④ Suez Canal
- ⑤ Torres Strait



Satellite view of the Strait of Hormuz, with the United Arab Emirates on the left of the image.

Mid-Indian Ridge

Heading southeast from the Gulf of Aden, this ridge meets the Southwest Indian Ridge mid-ocean.

Seychelles

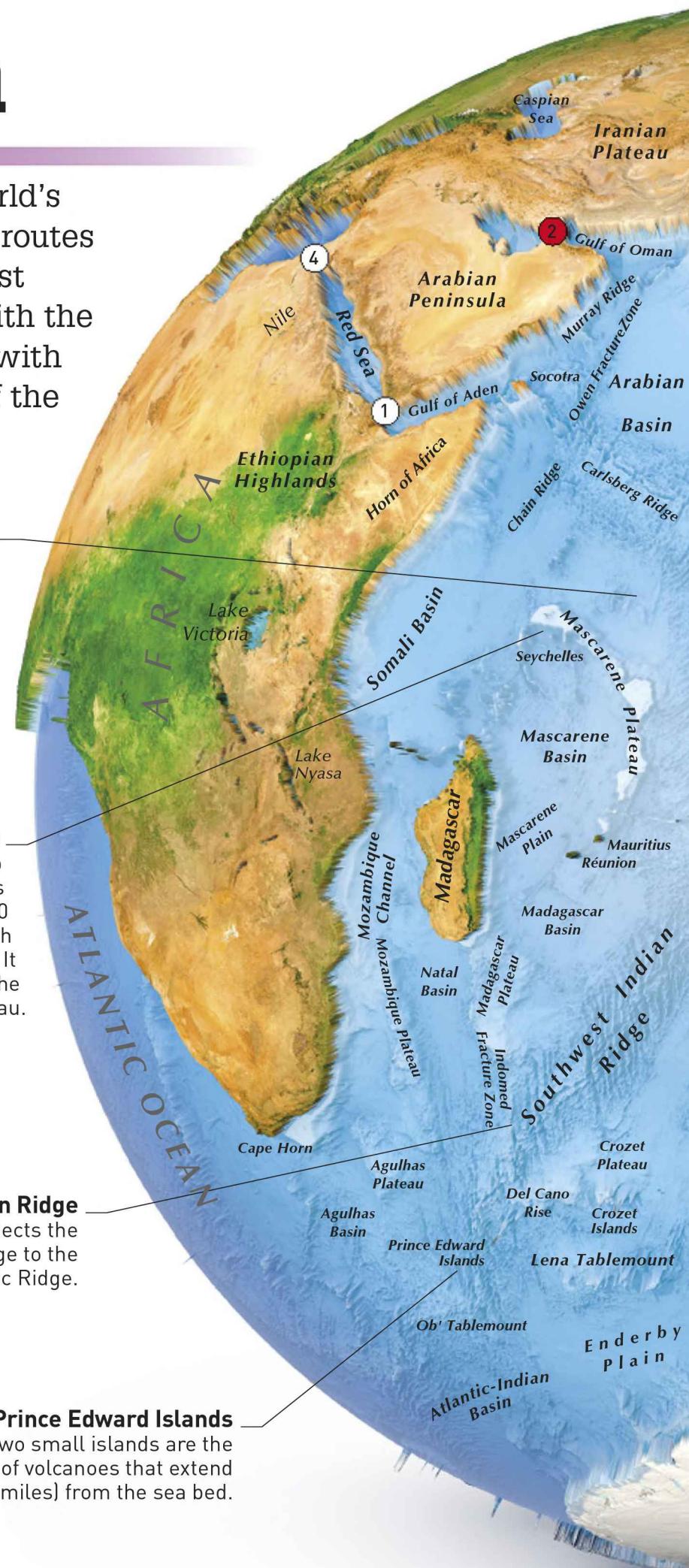
This group of 115 islands lies 1,819 km (1,130 miles) to the north of Madagascar. It forms part of the Mascarene Plateau.

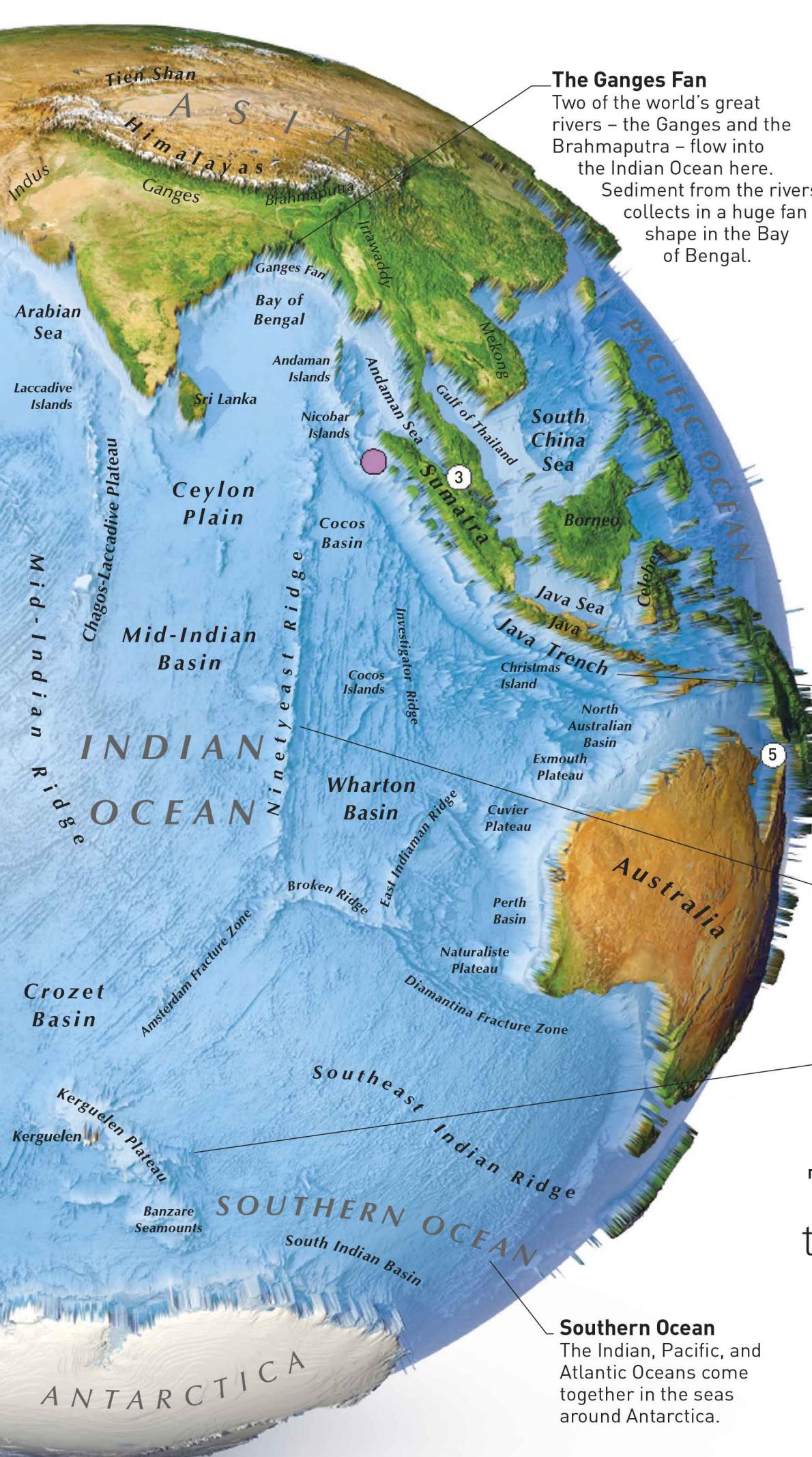
Southwest Indian Ridge

This ridge connects the Mid-Indian Ridge to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Prince Edward Islands

These two small islands are the peaks of volcanoes that extend 5 km (3 miles) from the sea bed.





Indian Ocean tsunami

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake (the third largest ever recorded) off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a tsunami (a huge wave that destroys everything in its path). It had catastrophic consequences for many countries bordering the Indian Ocean, when waves of up to 30 m (100 ft) high left as many as 230,000 people dead.

The **Indian Ocean** is the world's **warmest**. Water temperatures reach **28°C (82.4°F)** in its **eastern** parts.





REFERENCE

Night and day

While Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa are bathed in sunlight, in Europe and West Africa, the lights continue to shine in the dark hours before dawn.

Countries of the world

This section includes 195 of the world's countries. With the exception of Taiwan and the Vatican City, all of them are member states of the United Nations.

* denotes official language

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

CANADA

North America
Capital: Ottawa



Population: 35.1 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French*, Punjabi, Italian, German, Cantonese, Inuktitut

Currency: Canadian dollar = 100 cents

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

North America

Capital: Washington, DC

Population: 324 million / 33 people per sq km (85 people per sq mile)

Total area: 9,833,517 sq km (3,796,742 sq miles)

Languages: English, Spanish

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



MEXICO

North America

Capital: Mexico City

Population: 123.2 million / 63 people per sq km (162 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,964,375 sq km (758,449 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Nahuatl, Mayan

Currency: Mexican peso = 100 centavos



BELIZE

Central America

Capital: Belmopan

Population: 347,370 / 15 people per sq km (39 people per sq mile)

Total area: 22,966 sq km (8,867 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna (Carib)

Currency: Belizean dollar = 100 cents



COSTA RICA

Central America

Capital: San José

Population: 4.8 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)

Total area: 51,100 sq km (19,730 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, English

Currency: Costa Rican colón = 100 céntimos



EL SALVADOR

Central America

Capital: San Salvador

Population: 6.1 million / 290 people per sq km (750 people per sq mile)

Total area: 21,041 sq km (8,124 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Nawat

Currency: US dollar = 100 cents



GUATEMALA

Central America

Capital: Guatemala City

Population: 15.2 million / 140 people per sq km (362 people per sq mile)

Total area: 108,889 sq km (42,042 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, indigenous languages

Currency: Quetzal = 100 centavos



HONDURAS

Central America

Capital: Tegucigalpa

Population: 8.9 million / 79 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)

Total area: 112,090 sq km (43,278 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Indigenous languages

Currency: Lempira = 100 centavos



NICARAGUA

Central America

Capital: Managua

Population: 6 million / 46 people per sq km (119 people per sq mile)

Total area: 130,370 sq km (50,336 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Miskito

Currency: Córdoba = 100 centavos



PANAMA

Central America

Capital: Panama City

Population: 3.7 million / 49 people per sq km (127 people per sq mile)

Total area: 75,420 sq km (29,120 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, English Creole, Indigenous languages including Ngabere

Currency: Balboa = 100 centesimos



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

West Indies

Capital: St John's

Population: 92,436 / 209 people per sq km (540 people per sq mile)

Total area: 443 sq km (171 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Antiguan Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents



THE BAHAMAS

West Indies

Capital: Nassau

Population: 324,600 / 23 people per sq km (61 people per sq mile)

Total area: 13,880 sq km (5,359 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, French Creole

Currency: Bahamian dollar = 100 cents



BARBADOS

West Indies

Capital: Bridgetown

Population: 290,600 / 676 people per sq km (1,750 people per sq mile)

Total area: 430 sq km (166 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Bajan (Barbadian English)

Currency: Barbados dollar = 100 cents



SAINT LUCIA

West Indies

Capital: Castries

Population: 164,464 / 267 people per sq km (692 people per sq mile)

Total area: 616 sq km (238 sq miles)

Languages: English*, French Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

West Indies

Capital: Kingstown

Population: 102,350 / 263 people per sq km (682 people per sq mile)

Total area: 389 sq km (150 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar = 100 cents



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

West Indies

Capital: Port-of-Spain

Population: 1.2 million / 234 people per sq km (606 people per sq mile)

Total area: 5,128 sq km (1,980 sq miles)

Languages: English*, Caribbean Hindustani, French, Spanish

Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar = 100 cents



SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

South America

Capital: Bogotá

Population: 46.7 million / 41 people per sq km (106 people per sq mile)

Total area: 1,138,910 sq km (439,736 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, Amerindian languages, English Creole

Currency: Colombian peso = 100 centavos



GUYANA

South America

Capital: Georgetown

Population: 735,900 / 3 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 214,969 sq km (83,000 sq miles)

Languages: English*, English Creole, Indigenous languages, Indian languages

Currency: Guyana dollar = 100 cents



SURINAME

South America

Capital: Paramaribo

Population: 585,800 / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)

Total area: 163,820 sq km (63,251 sq miles)

Languages: Dutch*, English, Sranan Tongo

Currency: Suriname dollar = 100 cents



VENEZUELA

South America

Capital: Caracas

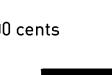
Population: 30.9 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)

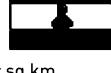
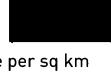
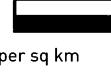
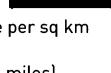
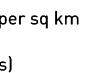
Total area: 912,050 sq km (352,143 sq miles)

Languages: Spanish*, numerous indigenous languages

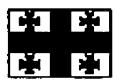
Currency: Bolívar fuerte = 100 centimos

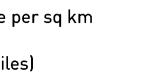


BOLIVIA*South America***Capital:** Sucre (judicial); La Paz (administrative)**Population:** 10.8 million / 10 people per sq km (26 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,098,581 sq km (424,165 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymara***Currency:** Boliviano = 100 centavos**ECUADOR***South America***Capital:** Quito**Population:** 15.9 million / 56 people per sq km (145 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 283,561 sq km (109,484 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Quechua*, other indigenous languages**Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**PERU***South America***Capital:** Lima**Population:** 30.7 million / 24 people per sq km (62 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,285,216 sq km (496,225 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Quechua*, Aymará, other indigenous languages**Currency:** New sol = 100 centimos**BRAZIL***South America***Capital:** Brasília**Population:** 204.3 million / 24 people per sq km (62 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 8,515,770 sq km (3,287,957 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Japanese**Currency:** Real = 100 centavos**ARGENTINA***South America***Capital:** Buenos Aires**Population:** 43.4 million / 16 people per sq km (40 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,780,400 sq km (1,073,518 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Italian, English, German, French, Indigenous languages**Currency:** Argentine Peso = 100 centavos**URUGUAY***South America***Capital:** Montevideo**Population:** 3.4 million / 27 people per sq km (70 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 176,215 sq km (68,036 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Portuñol**Currency:** Uruguayan peso = 100 centesimos**CHILE***South America***Capital:** Santiago**Population:** 17.5 million / 23 people per sq km (60 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 756,102 sq km (291,932 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Indigenous languages**Currency:** Chilean peso = 100 centavos**PARAGUAY***South America***Capital:** Asunción**Population:** 6.9 million / 17 people per sq km (44 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 406,752 sq km (157,048 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Guarani***Currency:** Guarani = 100 centimos**AFRICA****ALGERIA***North Africa***Capital:** Algiers**Population:** 39.5 million / 17 people per sq km (43 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,381,740 sq km (919,595 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Tamazight*, French**Currency:** Algerian dinar = 100 santeems**LIBYA***North Africa***Capital:** Tripoli**Population:** 6.5 million / 4 people per sq km (10 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,759,540 sq km (679,362 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Berber languages**Currency:** Libyan dinar = 1,000 dirhams**MOROCCO***North Africa***Capital:** Rabat**Population:** 33.7 million / 76 people per sq km (196 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 446,550 sq km (172,414 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Tamazight*, French**Currency:** Moroccan dirham = 100 santim**TUNISIA***North Africa***Capital:** Tunis**Population:** 11.1 million / 68 people per sq km (176 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 163,610 sq km (63,170 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, French, Berber**Currency:** Tunisian dinar = 1,000 millimes**BURUNDI***Central Africa***Capital:** Bujumbura**Population:** 10.7 million / 384 people per sq km (996 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 27,830 sq km (10,745 sq miles)**Languages:** Kirundi*, French*, Kiswahili**Currency:** Burundi franc = 100 centimes**DJIBOUTI***East Africa***Capital:** Djibouti**Population:** 828,324 / 36 people per sq km (92 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 23,200 sq km (8,958 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Arabic*, Somali, Afar**Currency:** Djibouti franc = 100 centimes**EGYPT***North Africa***Capital:** Cairo**Population:** 88.5 million / 88 people per sq km (229 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,001,450 sq km (386,660 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, French, English**Currency:** Egyptian pound = 100 piastras**ERITREA***East Africa***Capital:** Asmara**Population:** 5.9 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 117,600 sq km (45,406 sq miles)**Languages:** Tigrinya*, Arabic*, English*, Tigre, Afar, Bilen, Kunama, Nara**Currency:** Nafka = 100 cents**ETHIOPIA***East Africa***Capital:** Addis Ababa**Population:** 102.3 million / 91 people per sq km (235 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,104,300 sq km (426,373 sq miles)**Languages:** Amharic*, Oromo, Tigrinya**Currency:** Ethiopian birr = 100 santim**KENYA***East Africa***Capital:** Nairobi**Population:** 45.5 million / 80 people per sq km (208 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 580,367 sq km (224,081 sq miles)**Languages:** Kiswahili*, English***Currency:** Kenya shilling = 100 cents**RWANDA***Central Africa***Capital:** Kigali**Population:** 12.9 million / 490 people per sq km (1,269 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 26,338 sq km (10,169 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Kinyarwanda*, English**Currency:** Rwandan franc = 100 centimes**SOMALIA***East Africa***Capital:** Mogadishu**Population:** 10.8 million / 17 people per sq km (44 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 637,657 sq km (246,199 sq miles)**Languages:** Somali*, Arabic, English, Italian**Currency:** Somali shilling = 100 cents**SOUTH SUDAN***East Africa***Capital:** Juba**Population:** 12.5 million / 19 people per sq km (50 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 644,329 sq km (248,777 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Arabic, Dinka, Nuer**Currency:** South Sudanese pound = 100 plasters**SUDAN***East Africa***Capital:** Khartoum**Population:** 36.7 million / 20 people per sq km (51 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,861,484 sq km (718,723 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, English*, Nubian, Fur**Currency:** Sudanese pound = 100 piastres**TANZANIA***East Africa***Capital:** Dodoma**Population:** 52.5 million / 55 people per sq km (144 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 947,300 sq km (365,755 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Swahili*, Sukuma, Chagga, Nyamwezi, Hehe, Makonde**Currency:** Tanzanian shilling = 100 cents**UGANDA***East Africa***Capital:** Kampala**Population:** 38.3 million / 159 people per sq km (412 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 241,038 sq km (93,065 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Luganda**Currency:** Uganda shilling = 100 cents**BENIN***West Africa***Capital:** Porto-Novo**Population:** 10.4 million / 92 people per sq km (239 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 112,622 sq km (43,483 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Fon, Bariba, Yoruba, Adja, Houeda, Somba**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**BURKINA FASO***West Africa***Capital:** Ouagadougou**Population:** 18.9 million / 69 people per sq km (179 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 274,000 sq km (105,869 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, various languages belonging to the Sudanic family**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CAPE VERDE***Atlantic Ocean***Capital:** Praia**Population:** 545,993 / 135 people per sq km (351 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 4,033 sq km (1,557 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Portuguese Creole**Currency:** Cape Verde escudo = 100 centavos**IVORY COAST***West Africa***Capital:** Yamoussoukro**Population:** 23.7 million / 74 people per sq km (190 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 322,463 sq km (124,504 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Dioula**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**GAMBIA***West Africa***Capital:** Banjul**Population:** 2 million / 177 people per sq km (458 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 11,300 sq km (4,363 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Mandinka, Fula, Wolof**Currency:** Dalasi = 100 butut**GHANA***West Africa***Capital:** Accra**Population:** 26.9 million / 113 people per sq km (292 people per sq mile)

MAURITANIA**West Africa****Capital:** Nouakchott**Population:** 3.7 million / 4 people per sq km (9 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,030,700 sq km (397,953 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Hassaniyah Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke**Currency:** Ouguiya = 5 khoums**NIGER****West Africa****Capital:** Niamey**Population:** 18.6 million 5 people per sq km / (38 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,267,000 sq km (489,189 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Hausa, Djerma**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**NIGERIA****West Africa****Capital:** Abuja**Population:** 186 million / 201 people per sq km (522 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 923,768 sq km (356,667 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo**Currency:** Naira = 100 kobo**SENEGAL****West Africa****Capital:** Dakar**Population:** 14.3 million / 73 people per sq km (188 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 196,722 sq km (75,955 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Wolof, Pulaar**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**SIERRA LEONE****West Africa****Capital:** Freetown**Population:** 6 million / 84 people per sq km (217 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 71,740 sq km (27,669 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Mende, Temne, Krio**Currency:** Leone = 100 cents**TOGO****Western Africa****Capital:** Lomé**Population:** 7.8 million / 137 people per sq km (356 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 56,785 sq km (21,925 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Ewe, Mina, Kabye**Currency:** West African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CAMEROON****Central Africa****Capital:** Yaoundé**Population:** 23.7 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 475,440 sq km (183,567 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, French*, Bamileke, Fang, Fulani**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC****Central Africa****Capital:** Bangui**Population:** 5.4 million / 9 people per sq km (23 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 622,984 sq km (240,535 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Sangho, Banda, Gbaya**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CHAD****Central Africa****Capital:** N'Djaména**Population:** 13.2 million / 10 people per sq km (27 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,284,000 sq km (495,752 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Arabic*, Sara, Maba**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CONGO****Central Africa****Capital:** Brazzaville**Population:** 4.8 million / 14 people per sq km (36 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 342,000 sq km (132,046 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Monokutuba, Mikongo, Lingala**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**CONGO, DEM. REP.****Central Africa****Capital:** Kinshasa**Population:** 79.4 million / 34 people per sq km (88 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,344,858 sq km (905,355 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Tshiluba, Kikongo, Lingala, Kingwana**Currency:** Congolese Franc = 100 centimes**EQUATORIAL GUINEA****Central Africa****Capital:** Malabo**Population:** 759,451 / 27 people per sq km (70 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 28,051 sq km (10,830 sq miles)**Languages:** Spanish*, Fang, Bubi**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**GABON****Central Africa****Capital:** Libreville**Population:** 1.7 million / 6 people per sq km (16 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 267,667 sq km (103,346 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Fang, Myene, Bapounou, Nzébi**Currency:** Central African CFA franc = 100 centimes**SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE****West Africa****Capital:** São Tomé**Population:** 197,541 / 204 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 964 sq km (372 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Forro**Currency:** Dobra = 100 centimos**ANGOLA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Luanda**Population:** 25.7 million / 21 people per sq km (54 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,246,700 sq km (481,351 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo**Currency:** Kwanza = 100 centimos**BOTSWANA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Gaborone**Population:** 2.2 million / 4 people per sq km (10 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 581,730 sq km (224,607 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Setswana, Shona, San, Khoikhoi, Ndebele**Currency:** Pula = 100 thebe**COMOROS****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Moroni**Population:** 780,972 / 349 people per sq km (905 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,235 sq km (863 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, French*, Comoran***Currency:** Comoros franc = 100 centimes**LESOTHO****Southern Africa****Capital:** Maseru**Population:** 2 million / 66 people per sq km (171 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 30,355 sq km (11,720 sq miles)**Languages:** Sesotho*, English*, Zulu**Currency:** Loti = 100 lisente**MADAGASCAR****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Antananarivo**Population:** 24.4 million / 42 people per sq km (108 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 587,041 sq km (226,658 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Malagasy***Currency:** Malagasy ariary = 5 iraimbilanja**MALAWI****Southern Africa****Capital:** Lilongwe**Population:** 18.6 million / 157 people per sq km (407 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 118,484 sq km (45,747 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Chichewa*, Chinyanja, Chiyao**Currency:** Malawi kwacha = 100 tambala**MAURITIUS****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Port Louis**Population:** 1.4 million / 686 people per sq km (1,778 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,040 sq km (788 sq miles)**Languages:** English, French, French Creole**Currency:** Mauritian rupee = 100 cents**MOZAMBIQUE****Southern Africa****Capital:** Maputo**Population:** 26 million / 32 people per sq km (84 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 799,380 sq km (308,642 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Emakhuwa, Xichangana**Currency:** Metical = 100 centavos**NAMIBIA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Windhoek**Population:** 2.4 million / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 824,292 sq km (318,261 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Oshiwambo languages, Nama, Afrikaans**Currency:** Namibian dollar = 100 cents**SEYCHELLES****Indian Ocean****Capital:** Victoria**Population:** 93,200 / 205 people per sq km (531 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 455 sq km (176 sq miles)**Languages:** Seychellois Creole*, English*, French***Currency:** Seychelles rupee = 100 cents**SOUTH AFRICA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Pretoria (administrative)**Population:** 54.3 million / 45 people per sq km (115 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,219,090 sq km (470,693 sq miles)**Languages:** IsiZulu*, IsiXhosa*, Afrikaans*, English***Currency:** Rand = 100 cents**SWAZILAND****Southern Africa****Capital:** Mbabane**Population:** 1.5 million / 86 people per sq km (224 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 17,364 sq km (6,704 sq miles)**Languages:** Siswati*, English***Currency:** Lilangeni = 100 cents**ZAMBIA****Southern Africa****Capital:** Lusaka**Population:** 15.5 million / 21 people per sq km (53 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 752,618 sq km (290,587 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga**Currency:** Zambian kwacha = 100 ngwee**ZIMBABWE****Southern Africa****Capital:** Harare**Population:** 14.5 million / 37 people per sq km (96 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 390,757 sq km (150,872 sq miles)**Languages:** Shona*, Ndebele*, English**Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**EUROPE****ICELAND****Northwest Europe****Capital:** Reykjavík**Population:** 335,900 / 3 people per sq km (8 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 103,000 sq km (39,768 sq miles)**Languages:** Icelandic*, English**Currency:** Icelandic króna = 100 aurar**DENMARK****Northern Europe****Capital:** Copenhagen

BELGIUM*Northwest Europe***Capital:** Brussels**Population:** 11.3 million / 338 people per sq km (874 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 30,528 sq km (11,787 sq miles)**Languages:** Dutch*, French*, German*, Flemish**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**LUXEMBOURG***Northwest Europe***Capital:** Luxembourg**Population:** 582,300 / 225 people per sq km (583 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,586 sq km (998 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, German*, Luxembourgish*, Portuguese**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**NETHERLANDS***Northwest Europe***Capital:** Amsterdam/The Hague**Population:** 17 million / 409 people per sq km (1,060 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 41,543 sq km (16,040 sq miles)**Languages:** Dutch*, Frisian**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**IRELAND***Northwest Europe***Capital:** Dublin**Population:** 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (181 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 70,273 sq km (27,133 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Irish***Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**UNITED KINGDOM***Northwest Europe***Capital:** London**Population:** 64.4 million / 264 people per sq km (685 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 243,610 sq km (94,058 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Welsh**Currency:** Pound sterling = 100 pence**FRANCE***Western Europe***Capital:** Paris**Population:** 62.8 million / 114 people per sq km (295 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 551,500 sq km (212,935 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Provencal, Breton, Catalan, Basque, Corsican**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**MONACO***Southern Europe***Capital:** Monaco**Population:** 30,581 / 15,291 people per sq km (39,602 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2 sq km (0.77 sq miles)**Languages:** French*, Italian, Monégasque, English**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**ANDORRA***Southwest Europe***Capital:** Andorra la Vella**Population:** 85,580 / 183 people per sq km (474 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 468 sq km (181 sq miles)**Languages:** Catalan*, Spanish, French, Portuguese**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**PORTUGAL***Southwest Europe***Capital:** Lisbon**Population:** 10.8 million / 109 people per sq km (281 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 92,090 sq km (35,556 sq miles)**Languages:** Portuguese*, Mirandese**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**SPAIN***Southwest Europe***Capital:** Madrid**Population:** 48.6 million / 96 people per sq km (249 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 505,370 sq km (195,125 sq miles)**Languages:** Castilian Spanish*, Catalan*, Galician*, Basque***Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**AUSTRIA***Central Europe***Capital:** Vienna**Population:** 8.7 million / 104 people per sq km (269 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 83,871 sq km (32,383 sq miles)**Languages:** German*, Turkish, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene, Hungarian (Magyar)**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**GERMANY***Northern Europe***Capital:** Berlin**Population:** 81 million / 227 people per sq km (588 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 357,022 sq km (137,847 sq miles)**Languages:** German***Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**LIECHTENSTEIN***Central Europe***Capital:** Vaduz**Population:** 37,937 / 237 people per sq km (614 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 160 sq km (62 sq miles)**Languages:** German*, Alemannish dialect, Italian**Currency:** Swiss franc = 100 centimes**SLOVENIA***Central Europe***Capital:** Ljubljana**Population:** 2 million / 99 people per sq km (256 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 20,273 sq km (7,827 sq miles)**Languages:** Slovene*, Serbo-Croat**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**SWITZERLAND***Central Europe***Capital:** Bern**Population:** 8.2 million / 199 people per sq km (515 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 41,277 sq km (15,937 sq miles)**Languages:** German*, French*, Italian*, Romansch***Currency:** Swiss franc = 100 centimes**ITALY***Southern Europe***Capital:** Rome**Population:** 62 million / 206 people per sq km (533 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 301,340 sq km (116,348 sq miles)**Languages:** Italian*, German, French, Slovene**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**MALTA***Southern Europe***Capital:** Valletta**Population:** 415,196 / 1,314 people per sq km (3,403 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 316 sq km (122 sq miles)**Languages:** Maltese*, English**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**SAN MARINO***Southern Europe***Capital:** San Marino**Population:** 33,285 / 546 people per sq km (1,413 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 61 sq km (24 sq miles)**Language:** Italian***Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**VATICAN CITY***Southern Europe***Capital:** Vatican City**Population:** 1000 / 2,273 people per sq km (5,886 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 0.44 sq km (0.17 sq miles)**Languages:** Italian*, Latin***Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**CZECH REPUBLIC***Central Europe***Capital:** Prague**Population:** 10.6 million / 134 people per sq km (348 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 78,867 sq km (30,450 sq miles)**Languages:** Czech, Slovak,**Currency:** Czech koruna = 100 halers**HUNGARY***Central Europe***Capital:** Budapest**Population:** 9.9 million / 106 people per sq km (276 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 93,028 sq km (35,918 sq miles)**Languages:** Hungarian***Currency:** Forint = 100 fillér**POLAND***Northern Europe***Capital:** Warsaw**Population:** 38.5 million / 123 people per sq km (319 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 312,685 sq km (120,728 sq miles)**Languages:** Polish*, Silesian**Currency:** Zloty = 100 groszy**SLOVAKIA***Central Europe***Capital:** Bratislava**Population:** 5.5 million / 112 people per sq km (291 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 49,035 sq km (18,933 sq miles)**Languages:** Slovak*, Hungarian (Magyar), Roman**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**ALBANIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Tirana**Population:** 3 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 28,748 sq km (11,100 sq miles)**Languages:** Albanian*, Greek, Macedonian**Currency:** Lek = 100 qindarkas**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Sarajevo**Population:** 3.9 million / 76 people per sq km (197 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 51,197 sq km (19,767 sq miles)**Languages:** Bosnian*, Croatian*, Serbian***Currency:** Marka = 100 pfenigs**CROATIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Zagreb**Population:** 4.5 million / 80 people per sq km (206 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 56,594 sq km (21,851 sq miles)**Languages:** Croatian*, Serbian, Hungarian**Currency:** Kuna = 100 lipa**MACEDONIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Skopje**Population:** 2.1 million / 82 people per sq km (212 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 25,713 sq km (9,928 sq miles)**Languages:** Macedonian*, Albanian, Turkish**Currency:** Macedonian denar = 100 deni**MONTENEGRO***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Podgorica**Population:** 644,578 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 13,812 sq km (5,322 sq miles)**Languages:** Montenegrin*, Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**SERBIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Belgrade**Population:** 7.1 million / 92 people per sq km (238 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 77,474 sq km (29,913 sq miles)**Languages:** Serbian*, Hungarian**Currency:** Serbian dinar = 100 para**CYPRUS***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Nicosia**Population:** 1.2 million / 130 people per sq km (336 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 9,250 sq km (3,751 sq miles)**Languages:** Greek*, Turkish*, English**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**BULGARIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Sofia

LITHUANIA*Northeast Europe***Capital:** Vilnius**Population:** 2.8 million / 43 people per sq km (111 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 65,300 sq km (25,213 sq miles)**Languages:** Lithuanian*, Russian**Currency:** Euro = 100 cents**GEORGIA***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Tbilisi**Population:** 4.9 million / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 69,700 sq km (26,911 sq miles)**Languages:** Georgian*, Russian**Currency:** Lari = 100 tetri**IRAQ***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Baghdad**Population:** 38.2 million / 87 people per sq km (226 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 438,317 sq km (169,235 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Kurdish*, Armenian, Assyrian, Turkic languages**Currency:** Iraqi dinar = 100 fils**TAJIKISTAN***Central Asia***Capital:** Dushanbe**Population:** 8.3 million / 58 people per sq km (149 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 144,100 sq km (55,637 sq miles)**Languages:** Tajik*, Russian**Currency:** Somoni = 100 diram**TURKMENISTAN***Central Asia***Capital:** Ashgabat**Population:** 5.3 million / 11 people per sq km (28 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 488,100 sq km (188,455 sq miles)**Languages:** Turkmen*, Russian, Uzbek**Currency:** Manat = 100 tenge**ROMANIA***Southeast Europe***Capital:** Bucharest**Population:** 21.6 million / 91 people per sq km (235 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 237,500 sq km (91,699 sq miles)**Languages:** Romanian*, Hungarian, Romanian**Currency:** Romanian leu = 100 bani**UKRAINE***Eastern Europe***Capital:** Kiev**Population:** 44.2 million / 73 people per sq km (190 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 603,550 sq km (233,031 sq miles)**Languages:** Ukrainian*, Russian**Currency:** Hryvnia = 100 kopiykas**RUSSIAN FEDERATION***Europe/Asia***Capital:** Moscow**Population:** 142.4 million 8 people per sq km / (22 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 17,098,242 sq km (6,601,668 sq miles)**Languages:** Russian*, Tatar**Currency:** Russian Rouble = 100 kopeks**ASIA****KAZAKHSTAN***Central Asia***Capital:** Astana**Population:** 18.4 million / 6 people per sq km (15 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,724,900 sq km (1,052,090 sq miles)**Languages:** Kazakh*, Russian**Currency:** Tenge = 100 tiin**ARMENIA***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Yerevan**Population:** 3.1 million / 104 people per sq km (270 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 29,743 sq km (11,484 sq miles)**Languages:** Armenian*, Russian, Kurdish**Currency:** Dram = 100 luma**AZERBAIJAN***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Baku**Population:** 9.8 million / 113 people per sq km (293 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 86,600 sq km (33,436 sq miles)**Languages:** Azeri*, Russian**Currency:** Manat = 100 qopiks**GEORGIA***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Tbilisi**Population:** 4.9 million / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,648,195 sq km (636,372 sq miles)**Languages:** Farsi (Persian)*, Azeri, Gilaki, Baluchi, Mazandarani, Kurdish, Arabic**Currency:** Iranian rial = 10 tomans**IRAQ***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Baghdad**Population:** 38.2 million / 87 people per sq km (226 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 438,317 sq km (169,235 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Kurdish*, Armenian, Assyrian, Turkic languages**Currency:** Iraqi dinar = 100 fils**TURKEY***Asia/Europe***Capital:** Ankara**Population:** 80.3 million / 103 people per sq km (265 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 783,562 sq km (302,535 sq miles)**Languages:** Turkish*, Kurdish**Currency:** Turkish lira = 100 kurus**ISRAEL***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Jerusalem (disputed)**Population:** 8.2 million / 395 people per sq km (1,023 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 20,770 sq km (8,019 sq miles)**Languages:** Hebrew*, Arabic, English**Currency:** Shekel = 100 agorot**ISRAEL***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Jerusalem**Population:** 8.2 million / 395 people per sq km (1,023 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 20,770 sq km (8,019 sq miles)**Languages:** Hebrew*, Arabic, English**Currency:** Shekel = 100 agorot**JORDAN***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Amman**Population:** 8.2 million / 55 people per sq km (143 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 89,342 sq km (34,495 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic***Currency:** Jordanian dinar = 1,000 fils**LEBANON***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Beirut**Population:** 6.2 million / 596 people per sq km (1,544 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 10,400 sq km (4,015 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, French, Armenian, Assyrian**Currency:** Lebanese pound = 100 piastres**LEBANON***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Damascus**Population:** 17.2 million / 93 people per sq km (241 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 185,180 sq km (71,498 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Kurdish, Armenian, Circassian, Aramaic**Currency:** Syrian pound = 100 piastres**Saudi Arabia***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Riyadh**Population:** 28.1 million / 13 people per sq km (34 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,149,690 sq km (830,000 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic***Currency:** Saudi riyal = 100 halalas**Saudi Arabia***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Abu Dhabi**Population:** 5.9 million / 71 people per sq km (183 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 82,600 sq km (32,278 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic*, Farsi, English, Indian and Pakistani languages**Currency:** UAE dirham = 100 fils**YEMEN***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Sana**Population:** 27.4 million / 52 people per sq km (134 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 527,968 sq km (203,850 sq miles)**Languages:** Arabic***Currency:** Yemeni rial = 100 fils**YEMEN***Southwest Asia***Capital:** Kabul**Population:** 32 million / 50 people per sq km (129 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 652,230 sq km (251,827 sq miles)**Languages:** Persian*, Pashto*, Uzbek, Turkmen**Currency:** Afghani = 100 puls**AFGHANISTAN***Central Asia***Capital:** Kabul**Population:** 32 million / 50 people per sq km (129 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 652,230 sq km (251,827 sq miles)**Languages:** Persian*, Pashto*, Uzbek, Turkmen**Currency:** Afghani = 100 puls**KYRGYZSTAN***Central Asia***Capital:** Bishkek**Population:** 5.7 million / 29 people per sq km (74 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 199,951 sq km (77,202 sq miles)**Languages:** Krygyz*, Russian*, Uzbek**Currency:** Som = 100 tyiyn**JAPAN***East Asia***Capital:** Tokyo**Population:** 127.7 million / 335 people per sq km (868 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 377,915 sq km (145,914 sq miles)**Languages:** Japanese**Currency:** Yen = 100 sen

INDIA*South Asia***Capital:** New Delhi**Population:** 1.27 billion / 386 people per sq km (1,001 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 3,287,263 sq km (1,269,219 sq miles)**Languages:** Hindi*, English*, Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, other**Currency:** Indian rupee = 100 paise**SRI LANKA***South Asia***Capital:** Colombo**Population:** 22.2 million / 338 people per sq km (876 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 65,610 sq km (25,332 sq miles)**Languages:** Sinhalese*, Tamil, English**Currency:** Sri Lanka rupee = 100 cents**MALDIVES***Indian Ocean***Capital:** Malé**Population:** 393,000 / 1,319 people per sq km (3,415 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 298 sq km (115 sq miles)**Languages:** Dhivehi*, English**Currency:** Rufiyaa = 100 laari**PAKISTAN***South Asia***Capital:** Islamabad**Population:** 202 million / 254 people per sq km (657 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 796,095 sq km (307,374 sq miles)**Languages:** Urdu*, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi**Currency:** Pakistani rupee = 100 paise**BANGLADESH***South Asia***Capital:** Dhaka**Population:** 169 million / 1,138 people per sq km (2,948 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 148,460 sq km (57,321 sq miles)**Languages:** Bengali*, Urdu, Chakma**Currency:** Taka = 100 poisha**BHUTAN***South Asia***Capital:** Thimphu**Population:** 741,919 / 19 people per sq km (50 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 38,394 sq km (14,824 sq miles)**Languages:** Dzongkha*, Sharchopka, Lhotshamka**Currency:** Ngultrum = 100 chetrum**NEPAL***South Asia***Capital:** Kathmandu**Population:** 29 million / 197 people per sq km (510 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 147,181 sq km (56,827 sq miles)**Languages:** Nepali*, Maithili, Bhojpuri**Currency:** Nepalese rupee = 100 paise**CAMBODIA***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Phnom Penh**Population:** 15.7 million / 87 people per sq km (225 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 181,035 sq km (69,898 sq miles)**Languages:** Khmer*, French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cham**Currency:** Riel = 100 sen**LAOS***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Vientiane**Population:** 7 million / 30 people per sq km (77 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 236,800 sq km (91,428 sq miles)**Languages:** Lao*, various local dialects, French**Currency:** New kip = 100 att**MYANMAR (BURMA)***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Nay Pyi Taw**Population:** 56.9 million / 84 people per sq km (218 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 676,578 sq km (261,228 sq miles)**Languages:** Burmese***Currency:** Kyat = 100 pyas**THAILAND***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Bangkok**Population:** 68.2 million / 133 people per sq km (344 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 513,120 sq km (198,117 sq miles)**Languages:** Thai*, Burmese**Currency:** Baht = 100 satangs**VIETNAM***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Hanoi**Population:** 95.3 million / 288 people per sq km (745 people per sq mile)**Languages:** Vietnamese*, Chinese, Khmer**Currency:** Đồng = 10 hao = 100 xu**BRUNEI***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan**Population:** 429,646 / 75 people per sq km (193 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 5,765 sq km (2,226 sq miles)**Languages:** Malay*, English, Chinese**Currency:** Brunei dollar = 100 cents**EAST TIMOR***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Dili**Population:** 1.2 million / 81 people per sq km (210 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 14,874 sq km (3,756 sq miles)**Languages:** Tetum*, Indonesian, Portuguese***Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**INDONESIA***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Jakarta**Population:** 258 million / 135 people per sq km (351 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 1,904,569 sq km (735,358 sq miles)**Languages:** Bahasa Indonesia*, more than 700 other languages are used**Currency:** Rupiah = 100 sen**MALAYSIA***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Kuala Lumpur**Population:** 31 million / 94 people per sq km (243 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 329,847 sq km (127,355 sq miles)**Languages:** Bahasa Malaysia*, Chinese*, English, Tamil**Currency:** Ringgit = 100 sen**PHILIPPINES***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Manila**Population:** 102.6 million / 342 people per sq km (886 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 300,000 sq km (115,830 sq miles)**Languages:** Filipino*, English*, Cebuano**Currency:** Philippine Peso = 100 centavos**SINGAPORE***Southeast Asia***Capital:** Singapore**Population:** 5.8 million / 8,321 people per sq km (21,552 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 697 sq km (269 sq miles)**Languages:** Malay*, Mandarin*, English*, Tamil***Currency:** Singapore dollar = 100 cents**AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA****FIJI***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Suva**Population:** 915,303 / 50 people per sq km (130 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 18,274 sq km (7,055 sq miles)**Languages:** Fijian*, English*, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu**Currency:** Fijian dollar = 100 cents**KIRIBATI***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Tarawa Atoll**Population:** 106,925 / 132 people per sq km (342 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 811 sq km (313 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Kiribati**Currency:** Australian dollar = 100 cents**MARSHALL ISLANDS***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Majuro**Population:** 73,376 / 405 people per sq km (1,050 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 181 sq km (70 sq miles)**Languages:** Marshallese*, English***Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**MICRONESIA***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Palikir**Population:** 104,700 / 189 people per sq km (490 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 702 sq km (271 sq miles)**Languages:** English, Trukese, Pohnpeian, Mortlockese, Kosrean**Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**NAURU***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** No official capital**Population:** 9,591 / 457 people per sq km (1,183 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 21 sq km (8 sq miles)**Languages:** Nauruan*, English, Kiribati, Chinese**Currency:** Australian dollar = 100 cents**PALAU***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Melekeok**Population:** 21,347 / 47 people per sq km (121 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 459 sq km (177 sq miles)**Languages:** Palauan, English*, Sonsorolese***Currency:** US dollar = 100 cents**PAPUA NEW GUINEA***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Port Moresby**Population:** 6.8 million / 15 people per sq km (38 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 462,840 sq km (178,703 sq miles)**Languages:** Tok Pisin*, English*, Hiri Motu*, over 800 native languages**Currency:** Kina = 100 toea**SAMOA***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Apia**Population:** 198,930 / 70 people per sq km (182 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 2,831 sq km (1,093 sq miles)**Languages:** Samoan*, English**Currency:** Tala = 100 sene**SOLOMON ISLANDS***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Honiara**Population:** 635,000 / 22 people per sq km (57 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 28,896 sq km (11,157 sq miles)**Languages:** English*, Melanesian Pidgin, 120 indigenous languages**Currency:** Solomon Islands dollar = 100 cents**TONGA***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Nuku'alofa**Population:** 106,500 / 141 people per sq km (366 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 747 sq km (288 sq miles)**Languages:** Tongan*, English**Currency:** Pa'anga = 100 seniti**TUvalu***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Funafuti Atoll**Population:** 10,900 / 419 people per sq km (1,086 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 26 sq km (10 sq miles)**Languages:** Tuvaluan*, English*, Kiribati**Currency:** Australian/Tuvaluan dollar = 100 cents**VANUATU***Australasia and Oceania***Capital:** Port Vila**Population:** 277,600 / 23 people per sq km (59 people per sq mile)**Total area:** 12,189 sq km (4,706 sq miles)

Glossary

Alkaline

Describes something that contains high levels of salts, such as a lake.

Amerindian

The peoples native to America, who lived there long before the arrival of European explorers and settlers.

Amphibious

Term used to describe a cold-blooded animal that is able to live both on land and in water, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders.

Aquatic

Animal or plant that lives in water.

Arachnid

Type of animal, such as a spider or a scorpion, that has a two-part body and four pairs of legs.

Archipelago

A group, or chain, of islands.

Arthropod

An animal without a backbone but with a hard outer shell, and with legs that can bend in many places, such as crabs, spiders, and centipedes.

Asteroid

A small body of rock or metal that circles the Sun, mainly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Atmosphere

The layer of gases, including oxygen and nitrogen, that surrounds Earth and protects us from radiation and debris coming from space.

Atoll

A circular, or horseshoe-shaped, coral reef enclosing a shallow area of water (lagoon).

Biome

A large area that has a particular climate, type of vegetation, and species of animals living in it.

Birth rate

The number of children born in an area, usually measured in the number of live births per 1,000 individuals within a population, or the average number of children per woman in that area.

Boreal forest

A type of coniferous forest – see taiga.

Broadleaf forest

A type of forest that can be temperate (with trees such as oak) or tropical (with various type of palm trees).

Caldera

A huge crater in a volcano, often formed by the collapse of the volcano's cone during an eruption.

Canyon

A steep valley that has been carved through rock by a river.

Civil war

A war between people living in the same country, because of political, religious, or racial differences.

Climate

What the weather is usually like, over a long time, in a specific area.

Climate change

When the climate is changing, due to Earth's atmosphere getting hotter because of human activity, such as pollution. Higher temperatures will affect weather systems, which in turn will affect the people, animals, and plants living in an area.

Coniferous

A type of tree or shrub, such as pine or fir, that has needles instead of leaves. They are found in both temperate and boreal forests.

Continent

One of the seven large landmasses on Earth: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Oceania, and Antarctica.

Crust

The hard, thin, outer shell of Earth.

Deciduous forest

A type of broadleaf forest found in temperate regions.

Deforestation

The cutting down of trees for timber or to clear the land for farming or for roads. It can lead to soil erosion.

Delta

A low-lying, fan-shaped area at a river mouth, usually where it flows into the sea. It is formed by layers of sediment brought along by the river.

Democracy

A system of ruling a country in which the people have a say, usually in the form of voting for who will be the country's leader (such as a president or prime minister).

Desert

A very arid (dry) region that has little or no precipitation. Some are cold deserts, such as the barren areas of rock and ice in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Dictatorship

The rule of a country by a person who often came to, or held on to, power without the vote of their people; the opposite of democracy.

Disputed territory

An area, or country, that wants to be independent from another, but that has not been officially recognized by the original nation, or the United Nations (UN).

Diversity

The variety of plants and animals in an ecosystem; or of different people living in an area.

Dormant

Describes a volcano which is not extinct but that has not erupted for a long time, although is likely to do so in the future.

Ecosystem

How all living things in an area interact with each other, the climate, and the various habitats there.

Elevation

The height of land above sea level.

Endemic

An animal or plant that is native and particular to one specific area.

Equator

The 0° line of latitude. It divides Earth into the northern and southern hemispheres.

Erosion

The wearing down of the land surface by running water, waves, ice, wind, and weather.

Evolution

How animals and plants change and develop over a long time, in order to adapt and survive.

Extinct

Refers to an animal that no longer exists, due to over-hunting or loss of habitat.

Fjord

A long, narrow, and deep inlet of sea situated between steep, coastal mountain sides.

Geyser

A fountain of hot water that erupts regularly as underground streams come into contact with hot rocks.

Glaciation

When ice sheets and glaciers grow and how that changes the landscape.

Glacier

A mass of ice made up of compacted and frozen snow, which moves slowly down a mountain, eroding and depositing rocks as it flows.

Gravity

The pulling force that attracts objects to each other – it keeps us on Earth, and planets in their orbits.

Habitat

The environment or place in which an animal or plant normally lives.

Hemisphere

The northern hemisphere is the half of Earth that sits above the Equator; the southern hemisphere is the half of the globe that falls below it.

Hominin

Humans, including the very first type of human ancestor, that first appeared in Africa about 7 million years ago.

Hurricane

A violent, tropical storm, also known as a cyclone in the Indian Ocean, and as a typhoon in the Pacific Ocean.

Iceberg

A large, floating mass of ice that has broken off from a glacier, or ice shelf, with most of its body underwater.

Ice sheet

A permanent layer of ice that covers large areas of land, such as in Antarctica or Greenland.

Ice shelf

A permanent layer of ice that floats on water, but which is partly attached to land.

Inca empire

A powerful ancient empire located in the Andes mountains of South America, which was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century.

Indigenous

A plant, animal, or people native to a geographical area.

Infrastructure

A term used to describe the things that make a country or region function, such as roads, transport, communications, schools, and industry.

Interstellar

Means "between stars".

Invertebrate

Animals that do not have a backbone, such as insects, crabs, and worms.

Isthmus

A narrow strip of land with water on either side that connects two larger landmasses.

Lagoon

A shallow stretch of coastal salt-water that is partly sheltered behind a barrier, such as a sandbank or coral reef; see atoll.

Latitude

A series of imaginary lines that run parallel to the Equator, measured in degrees north or south of it. The Equator is 0°, the North Pole 90°N, and the South Pole 90°S.

Longitude

As latitude, but giving the distance for how far east or west something is from 0° longitude in Greenwich, London, in the United Kingdom.

Mammal

Warm-blooded animals that give birth to babies that feed on milk.

Mangrove

Trees and shrubs that grow along muddy shores and river banks, often in salty water, and with many of their roots exposed.

Marsupial

A type of mammal, such as a kangaroo, that keeps its young in a pouch on its stomach until they can manage for themselves.

Mayan empire

An ancient civilization in South America that existed from around 2,000 BCE to the 16th century, when they were conquered by the Spanish.

Metropolitan area

The built-up, often densely populated area surrounding a city, including suburbs and nearby urban areas.

Migration

The movement of animals or people from one place to another, often to find food or to breed.

Molten

Rock or metal that has been heated to liquid form; lava is molten rock.

Monsoon

A seasonal wind in South and East Asia that brings heavy rains.

Montane

The type of biome (climate, plants, and wildlife) found in mountains.

Nomad

People who move around a region to find fresh pasture for their herds.

Oasis

A fertile, green area in a desert that usually gets its water from underground sources.

Peninsula

A thin strip of land that sticks out from the mainland into the sea.

Plain

A flat, low-lying region of land.

Plateau

A flat area of land on a highland.

Population density

Describes how crowded or sparsely populated an area is, based on how many people live per square kilometre or square mile – it is worked out by dividing a country's (or city's) population by its area.

Precipitation

The moisture that falls from the atmosphere onto Earth, in the form of rain, snow, hail, or sleet.

Prevailing winds

Commonly occurring winds that blow in the same direction, and which influence the climate of a particular region.

Rainforest

Dense forests growing in tropical zones, with high rainfall, temperature, and humidity.

Rift valley

A long depression in Earth's crust, formed by the sinking of rocks between two faults or plates.

River basin

The land into which water (usually in the form of rivers) gathers.

Rural

Relating to unbuilt areas, usually countryside; the opposite of urban.

Sea ice

The ice that forms when ocean water in the polar regions freezes.

Steppe

Large areas of dry grassland in the northern hemisphere – especially in southeast Europe and central Asia.

Subcontinent

A large landmass that is part of a continent, such as India (subcontinent) in Asia (continent).

Sub-tropical

An area or climate that is nearly tropical, located to the north or south of the tropics.

Taiga

The Russian word for a coniferous forest.

Tectonic plates

Huge interlocking plates that make up Earth's surface. A plate boundary is the point at which plates meet, and where earthquakes often occur.

Temperate

The mild, variable climate found in areas between the tropics and cold polar regions.

Tetrapod

Any vertebrate (animal that has a spine) with four limbs (arms or legs).

Time zone

The world is split into 39 different time zones. Most are set whole hours ahead or behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) – the time at the Greenwich Meridian in London, UK. Some, however, are whole hours plus 30 or 45 minutes ahead or behind UTC.

Trade wind

A prevailing wind that blows towards the Equator, either from northeast or southeast.

Trench

A deep valley in the ocean floor, formed when tectonic plates collide.

Tributary

A stream or small river that feeds into a larger one.

Tropical

Referring to the climate or biomes in the areas just north and south of the Equator. These areas are characterized by heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and no clearly defined seasons.

Tundra

A biome in the very cold, northern parts of Europe, North America, and Asia, in which the ground never thaws beneath the surface (called permafrost).

United Nations (UN)

An organization of 193 states that work together to keep peace in the world, and make it better for all people who live here.

UNESCO

Part of the UN, UNESCO works for peace by helping people understand each other through their cultures. They have made a list of heritage sites that should be protected, ranging from natural landscapes to historic buildings.

Urban

Built up; relating to living in a town or a city.

Urbanization

A term that refers to both the growth of towns and cities, and to the number of people that move from rural to urban areas.

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Climate data

Hijmans, R.J., S.E. Cameron, J.L. Parra, P.G. Jones and A. Jarvis, 2005. Very high resolution interpolated climate surfaces for global land areas.

Population data

Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN - Columbia University. 2016. Gridded Population of the World, Version 4 (GPWv4): Population Density. Palisades, NY: NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC).

Paleogeography globes

Derived from original maps produced by Colorado Plateau Geosystems Inc.

Landsat satellite data for feature spread 3D models

These data are distributed by the Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center (LP DAAC), located at USGS/EROS, Sioux Falls, SD. <http://lpdaac.usgs.gov>

Night time

Data courtesy Marc Imhoff of NASA GSFC and Christopher Elvidge of NOAA NGDC. Image by Craig Mayhew and Robert Simmon, NASA GSFC.

Wildlife biomes data

WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World (TEOW). Olson, D. M., Dinerstein, E., Wikramanayake, E. D., Burgess, N. D., Powell, G. V. N., Underwood, E. C., D'Amico, J. A., Itoua, I., Strand, H. E., Morrison, J. C., Loucks, C. J., Allnutt, T. F., Ricketts, T. H., Kura, Y., Lamoreux, J. F., Wettenberg, W. W., Hedao, P., Kassem, K. R. 2001. Terrestrial ecoregions of the world: a new map of life on Earth. *Bioscience* 51(11):933-938.

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